Daily Report

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Affairs

Israelis, Palestinians React to U.S. Document *[Jerusalem TV]* 1
Arab Delegates Assess Results of 10th Round *[Damascus Radio]* 1
Al-'Allaf Says No Progress Made in Last Meeting *[Damascus TV]* 3
Comments on Status of Talks *[Riyadh TV]* 3
New Israeli Proposal Presented to Lebanese *[VOL]* 4
Al-Tarawinah, al-Mu'ashshir Discuss Jordanian Track *[Amman TV]* 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy on Rejection of UN Border *[AFP]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi: Participation in Talks May Be Suspended *[AFP]* 5
'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Comments on Peace Process *[Brussels KNACK 23-29 Jun]* 5
Editorial Views U.S. Document, Jerusalem Issue *[AL-NAHAR 1 Jul]* 8
Radio: U.S. Stance Must Change To Save Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 9
Commentary Links Jerusalem Incident, Peace Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 9
PLO Said Not Ready To Concede Gulf War Stand *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Commentary Assails U.S. Action Against Baghdad *[Algiers VOP]* 10
Ghawshah Reviews Efforts To Promote National Unity *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 30 Jun]* 11
Central Committee Member on Relations Within Fatah *[London AL-HAWADITH 2 Jul]* 12
PLA's al-Khatib Refuses To Accept Retirement *[Amman AL-AHALI 28 Jun]* 13
Jordan Bank To Open 3 Branches in West Bank *[AL-NAHAR 1 Jul]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Comment on Punishment of Airport Bombers Clarified *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Government Memorandum Defends Economic Policy *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

Government Tightens Control of Travel to Libya *[MENA]* 15
Gulf States Announce Decision To Lift Embargo *[AL-WAFD 24 Jun]* 15
Article Blames U.S. for 'Crisis' in Relations *[AL-WAFD 24 Jun]* 15

Morocco

Democratic Bloc Calls For Review of Candidates *[MAP]* 16
OAU Urged To Suspend Western Sahara's Membership *[MAP]* 17
King Meets With West African Presidents *[Rabat Radio]* 17
Pro-Iraq Committee Criticizes Attack on Baghdad *[MAP]* 17

Sudan

'Imminent' Cabinet Reshuffle, Other Changes Rumored *[MENA]* 17
Ethiopia's Meles Arrives 1 Jul on Official Visit *[Omduran Radio]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

• Sa'd Intervenes in Assembly-Cabinet 'Conflict' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Jun]* 19
'End' of Dispute With Defense Minister *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Jul]* 19
Rapid Deployment Force Set Up on Northern Border *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Jul]* 20

Qatar

Heir Apparent Meets Visiting Chinese Vice Premier *[WAKH]* 20

Saudi Arabia

King Issues Decree Merging Refineries in Saudi Aramco *[SPA]* 20
UN Failure To Lift Bosnian Arms Embargo Decried *[Riyadh Radio]* 20

United Arab Emirates

Chinese Vice Premier Arrives For Economic Talks *[WAKH]* 21

IRAQ

INA Reports Tariq 'Aziz 1 Jul Interview on CNN 22
Baghdad Reportedly Expels BBC Crew, CNN Reporter *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
Brutus-Ghali Cited on Tariq 'Aziz Meeting, New Talks *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Civil Defense Official Rounds Up Missile Attack Losses *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 28 Jun]* 25
Editorials Discuss U.S. 'Crimes', Travel Advisory *[INA]* 25
Sermon Notes Martyrdom's Lessons, Urges Muslim Unity *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Note to Arab League Protests Airspace Violations *[INA]* 26
Ba'th, Jordanian Party Establish 'Struggle Relations' *[INA]* 26
Opposition Reportedly Inflicts 'Heavy' Losses *[Kuwait Radio]* 26
More on Attack, Clash With MKO *[IRNA]* 27
Saddam Envoy Carries 'New Offer' to Kurdistan *[London AL-HAYAH 30 Jun]* 27

ISRAEL

'Satisfaction' With U.S. Document Reported *[HA'ARETZ 2 Jul]* 28
Peres: U.S. Draft Document Lacks 'Great Promise' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Peres Discusses Jerusalem Issue, U.S., Closure *[AL-NAHAR 1 Jul]* 29

JORDAN

Prime Minister Explains Stands on Peace Talks, Iraq *[Amman Radio]* 32
Comments on Arab Ties *[AL-RA'Y 2 Jul]* 32
Deputy Attacks Government 'Change' of Stance on Iraq *[AL-BA'TH 30 Jun]* 33
U.S. Formula for Palestinian Self-Rule Anticipated *[AL-DUSTUR 1 Jul]* 34
Formula Presented, Viewed *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 2 Jul]* 34

LEBANON

Buwayz Receives Text of Latest Israeli Proposal *[VOL]* 36
Comments on Military Committee *[RFL]* 36
Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut From Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 36
U.S., Russian Envoys Convey Invitation to Talks *[VOL]* 36
Israel Reinforces Positions in Southern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Overnight Shelling Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Amal Movement Claims Attack on SLA Post *[VOL]* 36

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Message From Turkish President *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Al-Shar' Receives UNRWA Commissioner General *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Papers Criticize Israeli Positions at Peace Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Increased U.S. Intervention in Talks Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 38
U.S. Accused of 'Duality' on International Issues *[AL-BA'TH 30 Jun]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

* Dostam Said Considering Independent State in North *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Jun]* 39

India

LTTE Infiltration of Tamil Nadu Government Denied *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Package for Speedy Use of Foreign Aid Announced *[Delhi TV]* 39
Commentary Hails Outcome of Border Talks With China *[Delhi International]* 40
Rao Denies Meeting Stockbroker, Views Successes *[Delhi Radio]* 40
New Army Chief Seeks Good Ties With Media *[Delhi Radio]* 41

Iran

Papers Condemn U.S. Raid on Baghdad, 'Feeble' UN 41
International Community Must Protest *[TEHRAN TIMES 28 Jun]* 41
Gulf States Must Cooperate *[ABRAR 28 Jun]* 41
U.S. Objectives Viewed *[SALAM 28 Jun]* 42
Prayers Leader Criticizes UN Over Bosnian Arms Embargo *[IRNA]* 42

Nepal

King Outlines Policies in Speech Opening Parliament *[AFP]* 43

Pakistan

Cabinet To Refer Punjab Proclamation to Supreme Court *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Troops Clash With India at Bugna Post *[THE NEWS 1 Jul]* 44
Paper Views Rao Statement on U.S. Mediator Role *[THE NATION 1 Jul]* 44
Paper Supports Aslam Beg Call for Good U.S. Ties *[PAKISTAN 1 Jul]* 44

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister on Talks With Tamil Groups Over Powers *[Colombo International]* 45
Cabinet Approves Bill on Extradition in Commonwealth *[Colombo International]* 45

Arab-Israeli Affairs

Israelis, Palestinians React to U.S. Document

TA0107200793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Despite public expressions of disappointment, political circles in Jerusalem are saying that Israel would be able to accept the central tenets of the U.S. proposal with certain modifications. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he would have preferred that the United States adhere to the document issued on 12 May. Any change in the document would be received with disappointment, the prime minister said.

On the other hand, political circles in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the Palestinians had more reason to be disappointed. The assessment is that even the mention of East Jerusalem as an issue for future discussion constitutes nothing new as the Shamir government had already agreed that any issue could be raised for discussion during the negotiations over the permanent status of the territories. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports on today's talks.

[Begin recording] [Golan] The two-page unofficial U.S. working paper presented yesterday by Dennis Ross proposes that Israel and the Palestinians stop arguing about the limits of the self-rule territorial jurisdiction and start concentrating on the transfer of functional authority to the Palestinians in fields like police, health, education, budget management, and land. However, the new U.S. paper was met with a very cool response by both the Palestinians and Israel.

[Israeli delegation head Elyaqim Rubinstein] Speaking for the prime minister, I can say that we are highly disappointed with the changes between this document and the American document that was presented on 12 May, at the conclusion of the previous round of talks. There are many points, as far as these changes go, on which we take a very grave view and that will, of course, necessitate thorough clarifications later on. This is our initial reaction to the document.

[Golan] Could it be said that most of our indignation stems from the Jerusalem issue? Judging from the leaks, for example, the American document—at least with regard to the transfer of authority—tends to favor Israel's positions.

[Rubinstein] I do not want to get into details. I have said enough. We obviously appreciate any efforts to promote the process, whether in the framework of direct negotiations or by the Americans. This does not prevent us from voicing harsh criticism of some of the formulations.

[Golan] Nevertheless, despite the differences between the American document that was presented in the previous round of talks and the new paper, the Palestinians continue to express their dissatisfaction.

[Palestinian delegation head Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English] Our initial reaction here is not positive, and we do not think that this document can serve as a basis for extended discussion. I am sorry to say this, but this is our initial assessment of this document.

[Golan] The U.S. Administration proposes that the final status of Jerusalem only be discussed when negotiations over the permanent settlement in the territories begin.

[Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi, in English] I would say, if I want to characterize this round as the round of Jerusalem, precisely because Israeli actions in Jerusalem and Israeli official statements in public have placed Jerusalem at the top of the agenda as a matter of extreme urgency.

[Golan] At the same time, Uri Lubrani made a last minute effort to break the deadlock with the Lebanese.

[Israeli delegation head Uri Lubrani] Today we presented a paper, a new proposal that follows the three proposals that the Lebanese delegation rejected. As far as we are concerned, this proposal is the result of a great deal of work with the aim of understanding the sensibilities and terminology of the Lebanese delegation as much as possible. All this is with the aim of searching for a way to make progress on what we have proposed, so that when the talks reconvene, practical discussions on the central, major issue between Israel and Lebanon—the security issue—will be possible.

[Golan] This time, the Israelis and the Palestinians are bringing back from Washington papers to work on through the summer. Next week, Dennis Ross and his team will visit the Middle East in order to help the parties prepare their summer assignments. [end recording]

Arab Delegates Assess Results of 10th Round

JN0207085493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The heads of the Arab delegations to the peace talks held a joint news conference yesterday to assess the outcome of the 10th round of talks, which ended yesterday. They described the threats facing the peace process resulting from the lack of progress due to the Israeli position at the talks.

At the conference, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation said: The continued lack of progress in the various rounds of talks threatens the credibility of the peace process and the future of peace in the region.

Al-'Allaf said: The lack of progress is due to Israel's attempt to play for time in the hope that, with time, it can push the Arab parties to either despair of the peace process or submit to what it is trying to impose on them. Al-'Allaf said Israel is wrong because it will not succeed in either objective.

Al-'Allaf explained the methods used by the Israeli negotiators to evade the terms of reference of the peace process. He said: At times, the Israelis on one track of negotiations with the Arab parties claim they are not an occupation force, while on another track they claim that their occupation is legitimate or permissible and that Security Council Resolutions 242 does not stipulate a complete withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied in 1967.

Al-'Allaf said: This Israeli distortion of the terms of reference of the peace process and the UN resolutions on which it was based was used by the former Israeli Government and continues, with minor differences in style, to be used by the current Israel Government. This distortion has created a feeling among Arab parties that the hopes aroused by the Madrid Conference were unfounded.

Al-'Allaf stressed that if peace is to be achieved, no part of the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon, can remain under occupation.

Al-'Allaf said: When we hear from our Palestinian brothers that the issue of Jerusalem is not subject to discussion, or when we are told that the occupation of the Golan Heights is permissible according to international law or that occupation is different from the acquisition of territory and that what they have done was an occupation and not an acquisition, or when they consider their occupation of southern Lebanon as a presence, we see in this the emergence of the factors that would lead to the failure of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf said: The Arabs did not come to the peace process to relinquish their rights or to give Israel legitimate cover for its occupation of their territory. Rather, they came to the process on the basis of promises contained in the letters of invitation and the letters of assurances, as well as the UN resolutions, which, according to the terms of reference, are considered the basis of the peace process.

Al-'Allaf added: The Arabs came to the peace process to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—regarding Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian territory—and based on Resolution 425 regarding South Lebanon.

He said: One should not be confused about the Arabs' adherence to peace and their commitment to the peace process. He said: We are committed to peace and the peace process must lead us to that peace. If the Israelis continue to deprive that process of any possibility of reaching the noble objective of peace, then they would be the party responsible for the consequences.

Al-'Allaf said he hopes the U.S. sponsor will prove he is truly a fair broker, a driving force, and a full partner in the negotiations by employing the full-partner role to ensure respect for the terms of reference of the peace process and to ensure that the resolutions and principles on which the peace process was based are not violated.

On his part, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the Palestinian delegation does not think that the document the U.S. sponsor presented to it and the Israeli delegation can form a basis for a joint declaration of principles on the interim self-rule period. He added: The Palestinian delegation is preparing a reply that it will give to the U.S. State Department. That reply will state that the document cannot be considered as a basis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian delegation refuses to postpone discussion of Jerusalem to the next phase in which the final status of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be discussed. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the U.S. document's failure to deal with the issue of Jerusalem in a rational or realistic way is a serious matter

During the news conference, 'Abd-al-Shafi reviewed the background of the negotiations deadlock on the Palestinian-Israeli track. He said the main reason for the deadlock in the talks is Israel's claim that it is not an occupation force, an argument that contradicts the position of all UN member states. He added: This allegation argues that the West Bank and Gaza are not occupied territory, but disputed territory, and this gives Israel the opportunity to demand part, or all of this territory.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: From the Palestinian viewpoint, the jurisdiction of the interim self-government must cover the entire geographic structure. Israel rejects this, while the U.S. sponsor calls for postponing discussion of territorial jurisdiction until the next phase of negotiations.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: The other reason for the deadlock in the negotiations is Israel's insistence on the annexation of Jerusalem. He added: What Israel is offering to the Palestinians, and fabricates clamor over, is only a transfer of powers in the fields of education, health, and others. He added: But we have refused to discuss this subject and to ignore the basic issues related to territory, Jerusalem, and the geographic jurisdiction.

'Abd-al-Shafi strongly criticized the role played by the U.S. sponsor. He said: We have noticed in the U.S. document presented to us yesterday further deterioration in the position of that sponsor compared with what was stated in the letter of assurances.

During the same news conference, Lebanese chief delegate Suhayl Shammas said that during the last session of meetings in this round yesterday the Israeli delegation presented a written proposal that he then relayed to the Lebanese to study. Shammas reviewed developments on the Lebanese-Israeli track between the end of the previous round and the end of this round.

Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, also reviewed developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track. He said: Progress on this track is linked to progress on other tracks, particularly the Palestinian.

In a statement in which he appeared to be in favor of the Israeli position on occupied Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of

State Warren Christopher said in Washington that the issue concerns the final status and must be resolved in the final stages of the peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Christopher told news agency correspondents yesterday that he is not surprised by the fact that the Israelis and the Palestinians did not immediately accept a U.S. draft proposal seeking to bridge the very difficult gap between the two parties.

Christopher said the determination of Jerusalem's future has always been, and still is, a matter related to the final status. He said he thinks this issue must be viewed from that perspective.

He said: Basically, one must play a fair broker role, which means to offer ideas which neither of the parties may consider fully satisfactory. But we hope the ideas will move and activate things and help find a compromise solution.

Al-'Allaf Says No Progress Made in Last Meeting

JN0107183493 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has said that during the 10th round which ended today, the Syrian delegation noted an escalation in Israel's intransigence and a retreat from previous Israeli stands.

Following the end of the last meeting of this round today, al-'Allaf said: During the meeting, the Syrian delegation informed the Israeli side of its concern over this issue and over the fact that the 10th round ended as the previous ones—without results.

Al-'Allaf noted that the head of the Israeli delegation tried to dissipate the Syrian delegation's impression about the retreat it noted in the Israeli position. He said that this took place through stressing commitment to Resolution 242 and to all that was discussed during the previous rounds.

AL-'Allaf said: During today's meeting, the Israeli side presented its reply to the offer the Syrian delegation made yesterday regarding the positive Syrian steps that were made within the framework of efforts to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement.

Al-'Allaf added: The Israeli reply included a repetition of its views on the reasons behind the lack of progress and an insistence on the Israeli precondition of discussing all issues with the exception of the basic commitment—namely, full withdrawal.

Al-'Allaf said: Since the negotiations have reached a point of no progress, the continuation of this situation puts the credibility of the peace process in a difficult position. He said that the sides in charge of the peace process should work to persuade the party that prevents this progress through its rejection of full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to honestly commit itself to the bases of the peace process and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Comments on Status of Talks

LD0107221593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Interview with Ambassador Muwafaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Munir Mustafa in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Munir Mustafa, our correspondent in Washington, has conducted an interview with Ambassador Muwafaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks. In the interview, al-'Allaf talked about the atmosphere of the 10th round, stressing that Israel tried to obstruct the talks by its continuing refusal to commit itself to the basis of the peace process.

[Al-'Allaf] At the beginning, especially from the sixth round, when the Israeli Government was changed and an Israeli prime minister, who claimed that he wanted peace, came to power, we saw that the new head of the Israeli delegation for the Syrian track also came with a new tone and style at the time. In the talks between the Syrians and the Israelis, he claimed that he accepted the implementation of the peace process basis and Resolution 242 and that he wanted to achieve a peace agreement. So we talked about peace, security arrangements and measures, security guarantees, and the need for setting up working groups when an agreement on the basic principles is reached. The only point the Israeli delegation dwelled on was withdrawal.

[Mustafa] How could this obstacle be resolved?

[Al-'Allaf] We believe that the Israeli side should make a fundamental change in this stand. The Israeli delegation does not take this stand only in talks with the Syrians. It is mirrored in their meetings with the Lebanese and Palestinians as well, regardless of the differences existing on the part of the Palestinians.

[Mustafa] What do you want the Israeli side to say or pledge?

[Al-'Allaf] It should accept, not only in a theoretical and obscure way, the whole content of Resolution 242, which is the basis of the peace process. It should accept the implementation of the articles and principles stated in the resolution. The resolution states the principle of the unlawfulness of acquiring territories during war. On this basis the resolution clearly states that there are two principles which should be accepted by both sides in order to achieve a just and durable peace in the region. The first principle is an Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. Up to now, the Israelis have clung to the deliberate ambiguity which specifies withdrawal from territories and not from the territories.

[Mustafa] Do you still adhere to the condition of a total withdrawal?

[Al-'Allaf] This is inevitable, inevitable. They do not say that they refuse, but they do not pledge openly to do so.

[Mustafa] If there is an 11th round, when will it take place?

[Al-'Allaf] These matters are usually decided by the Arab foreign ministers, who hold coordinating meetings at ministerial level after each round. This decision also depends on their assessment of the progress achieved during the previous round. I think that the Arab commitment to the peace process is real and serious. Unfortunately, however, if the rounds continue to be convened in such a manner, consecutively and without result, this will lead to the loss of credibility by the peace process.

[Mustafa] Thank you, Ambassador Muwafaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian negotiators to the Middle East peace process here in Washington.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you.

New Israeli Proposal Presented to Lebanese

NC0107170493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Telehone dispatch by radio correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik from Washington—live]

[Text] At the final session of the 10th round of peace talks, the Israelis presented a new proposal to the Lebanese delegation. Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, read the proposal to the Lebanese delegation today. This was announced by Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, as he stepped out of the State Department.

Shammas said that the Lebanese have received the Israeli paper and will give it all the attention it deserves. The Lebanese Government, he said, will examine it in depth. Shammas, however, refused to give any details about the content of the Israeli paper.

Uri Lubrani, for his part, said that the Israelis propose to set up a military working group. The proposal, he added, takes into account all the sensitivities and considerations that the talks made us aware of and avoids compromising the basic principles of either side.

Lubrani expressed his confidence that this proposal includes all the factors needed to achieve progress. Lubrani stressed Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity and pointed to the desire of both countries to reach a comprehensive and just peace between them on the basis of the understanding reached in Madrid. Such peace, he said, would end the reasons for what he described as Israel's limited presence in the border strip. The Israeli paper, he said, would open the door for Lebanon to accept the formation of a joint military team to discuss security issues of concern to both countries.

Lubrani also said that the Israeli delegation answered the Lebanese paper presented in 11 May, but he added that this paper is unacceptable and cannot produce any progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

Al-Tarawinah, al-Mu'ashshir Discuss Jordanian Track

JN0107224293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Dispatch from Washington by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Text] The 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations will end in Washington today without achieving any tangible progress. At the outset of this round, observers said that in light of the parties' persistent stands and the clear Israeli intransigence no progress would be achieved and that this round would not be a decisive one, as has been said, unless the U.S. sponsor intervened to push efforts forward and exert pressure on Israel to abandon its intransigent attitude, which is stalling the Arab tracks. This did not happen. The round ended with a draft document of U.S. ideas that are unofficial, nonbinding, and noncompelling. Moreover, these ideas do not contain any efforts to solve problems facing the Palestinian-Israeli track, leaving the door open for both the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The Palestinians said this round was disappointing. In a news conference she held yesterday, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that this round is like previous rounds and that no results were achieved.

Responding to reporters' questions yesterday, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation, said that Jordan emphasized the principle of a comprehensive solution in every round and considered it a strategic stand.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] Before the Jordanian track's session, I met with Dennis Ross, the general coordinator of the peace process who is from the U.S. sponsor's side. We assessed developments on the Jordanian track and the moves that took place during discussions held on that track. Naturally, I clearly conveyed the picture to him. We reaffirmed the Jordanian stand on some points, especially on the issues dealing with Palestinians carrying expired permits, reuniting families, and water rights issues. I conveyed to the general coordinator our stand toward and insistence on these issues and stated that we did not receive any reponses to them from the other side. We also continued discussions on other issues. [end recording]

[Begin Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, media spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, recording] During this round, the Jordanian delegation focused on an issue that is part of the refugee issue. It deals with a group of people who

were inside the West Bank when it was occupied in 1967. Israeli occupation authorities gave those people residency permits. Then these people left the occupied territories for one reason or another and were not allowed to return. The group contains 90,000 people. We believe that Israel should allow them to return to the occupied territories. [end recording]

A U.S. delegation will tour the Middle East within the next two weeks. During its tour, the delegation will visit capitals concerned with the peace process in order to continue discussions and maintain the momentum, as officials in the U.S. Department of State put it.

This afternoon, the heads of the Arab delegations will hold a joint news conference during which they will talk about this round.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy on Rejection of UN Border

NC0107171493 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 1 (AFP)—The Iraqi people would reject the U.N. demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border even if the government was forced to accept it, Iraq's envoy at the Arab League said on Thursday [1 July].

Nabil Najm's was the first Iraqi official to react to a warning Monday by the Security Council, which cautioned Iraq against any effort to contest the border with Kuwait that was drawn by a special U.N. commission after the Gulf war.

A U.N. commission delineating sea and land borders concluded its work on May 20 by giving both countries access to the sea. But it pushed the land border 600 meters (yards) into Iraq in line with Gulf war ceasefire agreements.

The council said that the commission "did not reallocate territory between Kuwait and Iraq, but simply carried out the technical tasks necessary to demarcate the precise coordinates for the first time, on the basis of a 1963 treaty.

"If, for imperative reasons, Iraq was forced (to respect the demarcation) I must say frankly that the Iraqi people will reject it," Najm said at League headquarters in Cairo.

He said the demarcation set a "dangerous precedent" which is bound to create "permanent tension" in the region.

Najm also accused the United States and Britain of imposing their will on the U.N. commission in order to isolate Iraq and prevent it from having access to the sea.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi: Participation in Talks May Be Suspended

NC0107173193 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Tunis, July 1 (AFP) - PLO political department chief Faruq Qaddumi on Thursday [1 July] warned that the Palestinians could suspend their participation in the peace process, charging that results to date were "near-zero."

Qaddumi denounced the latest U.S. plan to prod the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations and blamed Washington for "not having the wish to obtain from Israel the concessions necessary" to secure progress in the talks.

He stressed that for the Palestinians "there are no alternatives to the peace negotiations."

But the Palestinians reserve the right to suspend their participation in the talks to give Israel a chance to reflect on its "mistaken" position and the co-sponsors, the United States and Russia, time to redress the course of the negotiations, Qaddumi said.

A decision to suspend Palestinian participation would however be adopted in agreement with the other Arab parties—Syria, Lebanon and Jordan—engaged in talks with Israel, the PLO official said.

"None of the Arab parties will resume the bilateral negotiations if they were to be boycotted by the Palestinians," Qaddumi said, adding that an Arab strategy meeting would take place in Beirut at an unspecified date.

He described the peace talks which close Thursday in Washington as having "already developed symptoms of failure...with near-zero results."

He accused Israel for the stalemate, namely over its refusal to include East Jerusalem in the peace talks.

"Any attempt to omit and neglect this issue is an invitation to a halt in the negotiations and proclaiming their failure," Qaddumi said.

In Washington Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi rejected as "totally unacceptable" the U.S. proposal, adding that the rejection was based on the failure to adequately address the status of East Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

A member of the Israeli delegation who chose to remain anonymous said the U.S. "text includes statements on key issues that are very difficult for Israel" to accept.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Comments on Peace Process

BR0207103093 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 23-29 Jun 93 pp 128-131

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Sus van Elzen; place and date not given:

"Peace Needs a Strong Enemy: The New Round of Negotiations on the Middle East in Washington Could Lead to a Breakthrough Says Adviser to PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat"]

[Text] At a UN meeting held in London 9-11 June devoted to the peace process in the Middle East, Dr. Nabil Sha'th spoke for the Palestinian side, especially for Yasir 'Arafat's PLO. Sha'th is 'Arafat's personal adviser. As a negotiator and "eminence grise," Sha'th plays a decisive role on the "moderate" side of the PLO and has already been described as the "true" head of the Palestinian delegation in the negotiation process. This may not be completely true (the other Palestinians too have their prerogatives), but if anyone other than Yasir 'Arafat can say where things stand for the PLO and the Palestinians in this peace process, than that person is Nabil Sha'th, whose (highly optimistic) view of the peace process has so far concluded with the gloomy observation about the "catastrophic situation in the occupied territories, which is worsening every day." Things are going well, he says, but they must go faster. We started off by asking him why he is now optimistic, when he was so gloomy in December.

[Sha'th] I still say that when (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Rabin does something like deporting 400 men, like he did at the end of last year, all the progress made so far can be undone. Our people are very sensitive to such actions, which make them lose hope that this process can actually lead to anything. However, in my opinion, the prospects for an agreement on the declaration of principle are currently good, and the intervention of the Americans, even though it came too late and contributed too little, gave a very important impetus: It was a sign that the Americans were prepared to act as full partners and wanted to contribute to setting up proposals for reconciliation. If they maintain this posture and if Rabin is truly serious, as I hear he is, then we can come to an agreement. Once we have signed a declaration of principle, then an agenda can be drawn up right away—with dates. A draft agreement ready by this date, elections by that date.... Then we can start realistically making plans. However, to do this, we need to reach an agreement on the declaration of principles in this round of negotiations.

[Van Elzen] A few months ago you compared the Israeli proposals to a Swiss cheese, saying that they would get the cheese and you would get the holes. Does that mean that you accept that proposal or that they have withdrawn it?

[Sha'th] The Israelis have dropped that—at least verbally. We just want make sure that there are no more ulterior motives. For the first time, they are now talking about treating the occupied territories as an "integral unit"—they do not call it the "occupied territories," but rather "the territories"—and about the "territorial integrity" of the territories. I think that this was a reaction to the specific question of the Swiss cheese. So now they are saying that they do not want to touch on this territorial question and that they do not want to divide up the territories. However, if they—on the other hand—begin talking about powers and authority, they say "in the territories." And the word "in" implies that they are not talking about all the territories. So there are still shadowy areas that must be tackled, but they are no longer as flagrant as they were in November.

If we set aside the fringe groups for a moment, we actually have three groups in Israel when it comes down to the occupied territories. This can also be heard in the terminology they use in the debate. The position of the Likud party is "all the land is Israel's land; it is ours; it is not "occupied;" and we cannot give up one inch of it. We can only give the Palestinians "autonomy" as an end result.

Then you have Meretz and some Labor "doves" who say: "We should pull out of the occupied territories. The only problem is Jerusalem, and we will have to work out a "two-state policy," otherwise there will never be peace.

However, most of the Labor party, led by Rabin, has quite clearly been won over by what they call "a territorial compromise." This term means, of course, that you want to pull out of part of the occupied territories, but not out of other parts. Most of the problems linked with the occupation and with jurisdiction over the territories are a result of this. They have not yet resolved it among themselves. Perhaps they will not reach that stage immediately, but in the declaration of principles they must give a definition of the occupied territories, even if they do not define what they want to do with them. This must happen, otherwise, in the eyes of our people, it will look like we too accepted this "territorial compromise," which is simply not the case.

[Van Elzen] Some Palestinians fear that Israel will come to the table with something like the old "Allon plan."

[Sha'th] Of course. The term "territorial compromise" comes from Allon. But what Allon meant by that term was a piece of land along the Jordan River, and for some time now that has not been important to the Israelis. What they are talking about is an area around Jerusalem stretching toward the north, on both sides of the "Green Line." So their concept of a "security zone" differs from Allon's. This is a result of developments under the Likud government. The frenetic building of settlements in the territories, which had nothing to do with the original Allon concept, has now become ridiculous with the end of the Cold War and the changed balance of power in the Gulf, etc. Is there anyone who now expects Israel to be attacked from Jordan?

[Van Elzen] It is often heard that the Palestinians, even though they may be right, are in such a weak position—financially and diplomatically, especially following the outcome of the Gulf war—that they must accept whatever Rabin wants to give them.

[Sha'th] That is not true. We have been weakened enough to realize that you cannot continue to insist on

absolute justice and that you must accept relative justice. But we needed that kind of weakness to convince our radicals that the armed struggle is not the only and not necessarily the best way to get justice in the new world. It is true that people who hold better cards more often have a better negotiating position, but that is not necessarily always the case. What you have to demonstrate is that without you there can be no genuine peace when the other side profits from it and that with you there is a better chance of serving everyone's interests, including yours. You have to show that perhaps you cannot impose a solution, but you can block a solution that runs counter to your interests. Power therefore becomes the measure in which the other parties truly have an interest in peace and are therefore prepared to find a place for your rights and prerogatives. That is what is happening now.

We are not negotiating on the basis of rockets or airplanes that we have or powerful countries that will wage war for us. What we have is a just case, and the evidence that without a minimum level of compliance with the demands, there can be no peace and therefore no stability in the region. And that—along with the continual risk of war and instability—is in nobody's interest, including Israel's. Our participation has become one of our assets and also our power to continue our struggle. The fact that we have the will and the possibility of participating in the peace process is an asset. The U.S. desire for peace works for us, as does the fact that it cannot continue to finance Israel because of the deficit. The Arab countries have an interest in a global peace, without which none of the parties involved will enjoy any peace....

[Van Elzen] Is that what made the United States act as a mediator?

[Sha'th] Absolutely. It would be ridiculous to not consider the changes that appeared because of the end of the Cold War and the Gulf war. Previously, any form of total peace in the region was, in one way or another, a concession to the Russians. So they did not want to do that. They preferred a situation of neither peace nor war, which gave them partial control over the region, but not full control. And however much it cost Israel, as an ally in the fight against the Soviet Union and communism in the region, it was easily worth the money. But who is going to pay for nothing now?

[Van Elzen] What kind of signal did the United States send?

[Sha'th] Secretary of State Warren Christopher went to the Middle East and concluded an agreement with Faysal al-Husayni. It took two months to put it into practice, but it was on this basis that the peace process could continue. The agreement made provisions for an Israeli guarantee that there would be no more deportations and that all the deportees could come back sooner; that the deportees of 1967 could come back; that measures would be taken in situ—which we have yet to see happen; that Rabin would commit himself to applying Resolution 242 to Palestinians and Syrians—which he did in Ismailiya; and that Christopher would repeat the U.S. commitment, which includes bringing Faysal al-Husayni back to the negotiating table and involving the Palestinians from the diaspora in the negotiations. All of this was achieved.

Too little, too late? Undoubtedly. If all this had come as a global concession, then it would have changed the situation considerably. Not now. Yet it did happen. And in the end came the new proposal from the Americans.

[Van Elzen] Where did that come from?

[Sha'th] It was an attempt to put together a sort of joint declaration from the Palestinian and Israeli proposals. It was already late, and they were not even sure about it. The end of the session was approaching, and in the end it did not work.

[Van Elzen] Do you think that Yitzhaq Rabin has a strategy?

[Sha'th] Of course he has a strategy, but not all strategies work. Rabin is taking his time. Even if he decides to give you this tape recorder, first he will give you one of the screws, then a nut, and then part of the motor. He thinks that this improves his negotiating position, which is not necessarily the case. The "too little, too late" argument can turn against him and cause him embarrassment. It can make any concession look out of place and too late. Then he complains that he does not get enough recognition for his concessions.

He is also seriously concerned about his security image. The image of a strong man who concedes nothing to outside pressure but who does what he wants is fine. All negotiators should be seen in the eyes of their opponents as people who will never let themselves be forced into anything, but sometimes you can take it too far. If you let yourself get caught up in a war mentality—"If we have to blow up 15 houses, then we will do it; a war is a war"—at that point the macho image can turn against you. It always turned against us when we used it! I am firmly convinced that Rabin and his coalition are truly interested in a peaceful settlement. The question is whether the tactics used do not sometimes destroy the possibility of achieving this goal. If you go over the promises Rabin made last June during the election campaign, you can see that some of them have still not been put on the table. This is very odd. Usually leaders are prepared to say more about their concessions in secret than they are willing to say to their supporters. But not here. He had the agreement of his party and supporters for some concessions, but he does not want to put them on the table. That is highly unconventional.

[Van Elzen] Do you suspect that the Rabin government is in a frame of mind to solve political problems with military means?

[Sha'th] That is precisely the problem I was talking about, and that is a frame of mind that can turn against the entire peace process. If you follow it to its logical

conclusion, then you must defeat your enemy before you can strike a peace with him. But while you are doing that, you are also destroying your enemy's peace initiatives. You need a strong enemy to strike a peace, and he has to sell the peace to his people. And since a peace settlement such as this one cannot give a clear advantage to one of the parties, both parties have to sell the peace to their people. If they are in a weak position, they will be replaced.

[Van Elzen] In the meantime, on the Palestinian side there is the struggle between your nationalistic trend and the radical Islamist trend of movements such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which do not want a political settlement.

[Sha'th] That is true, but at the moment there is no violence being committed between the two groups. That is very important. Good, we want to discuss this calmly from now on. Every democracy in the world has to deal with people who do not agree with its objectives or its policies. As long as this opposition takes place in the parliament or in the media and not in the street, then everything is fine. To my mind, the Islamists, just like the communists before them, have the absolute right to defend their point of view wherever they wish, as long as they do not try to force, threaten, or terrorize people into siding with them.

[Van Elzen] But do they also have the right to wage their war against individual Israelis in the street?

[Sha'th] OK, that is a problem, but at this point in the game—under occupation—the war in the streets is not completely our responsibility. As soon as we are compelled to provide security, we then become responsible for it. The Israelis must recognize this, too. This is their burden because they are the only ones with any police powers. If we take power, then we too will become responsible. As things stand, there is nothing we can do. They are not part of our military organization. We have no means of taking police action against them. They do not attack our people, but rather the soldiers of the occupation force. Once the occupation is over, they will be criminals if they continue to do what they are doing. Is that not true?

[Van Elzen] What do you think of the idea that the Israelis may well want peace but do not want to give up any land? That they can delay the process unhindered, while they wait for the geopolitics of the region to change back, and they can have both land and peace?

[Sha'th] That is still a possibility. The politics of gaining time used by the Shamir government may still be present in the mind of Rabin and must certainly be taken seriously. It seems to me to be a good explanation for why things sometimes do not appear to work at all.

Editorial Views U.S. Document, Jerusalem Issue

TA0107194393 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "No Betting on U.S. Pledges"]

[Text] The draft document presented by the U.S. Administration to the Palestinians and Israelis, which puts forward ideas on the declaration of principles that might bring the two viewpoints closer and serve as a compromise between the Palestinian and Israeli positions, came after the Americans managed to formulate ideas to overcome the obstacle impeding the declaration of principles, namely, the issue of Jerusalem. The Palestinians reiterated that it was not possible to accept the Israeli concept on the future of Jerusalem. They felt that Washington was closer to the Israeli position. The U.S. initiative came to save the situation and to affirm the continuation of the peace process.

This U.S. initiative comes at a time when the Arabs, and foremost of all the Palestinians, felt that the talks had collapsed and that a climate of despair and frustration was enveloping the region and the Arab masses everywhere, all of whom placed the blame for this failure not only on Israel but also the United States. The 10 rounds of negotiations and the Madrid peace conference could not activate the peace process despite all the efforts by the Americans and the sacrifices and concessions made by the Arabs for the sake of advancing the negotiating process. Israel, with its intransigence and the rigidness of its positions, did not allow the talks to achieve good results. There are things to which Israel must commit itself if it wants the Palestinians to endorse autonomy and the transitional stage. Those things are summed up by Israel's commitment not to make changes in Arab Jerusalem and create a new reality. It should also accept the principle that Jerusalem's future will be determined in the final talks. The Palestinians are asking for a written Israeli pledge spelling out the Israeli Government's commitment to these principles.

If Rabin is refusing to give any pledge or written commitment, the U.S. draft presented to the Palestinian and Israeli sides and which was issued by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the talks, does not demand from Israel any written commitments but involves a vague oral formula that Israel can renege on at any time.

While the U.S. document calls on the Palestinians not to include the issue of Jerusalem in the transitional stage, it calls on Israel not to undertake any measure that infringes on the status of Arab Jerusalem during this period.

Thus, the U.S. document relies on vagueness and loose generality. The focus of Ross's tour, which will be followed by Christopher's shuttle trip, will be to obtain agreement on this document from some of the Arabs so that they in turn will pressure the Palestinians to accept and sanction this document and end the differences between the two parties that are threatening to derail the

entire peace process. The United States wishes to promote the declaration of principles document that it has presented because it realizes that the failure of this document will mean the failure of the talks.

In the past we betted on the Bush-Baker pledges that evaporated with the arrival of the new U.S. Administration.

The question is: Who will guarantee to us the Christopher-Ross pledges concerning such a sensitive issue as Jerusalem?

Radio: U.S. Stance Must Change To Save Talks

LD0207024593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli talks has ended, but it seems that this round in the peace process did not get out of the circle of emptiness that Israel drew around it from the very beginning.

We were well aware that the road of negotiations with Israel was a thorny one. We also hoped, however, that the United States would intervene, in its role as the main sponsor of the conference, to put pressure on Israel, especially since the United States entered the negotiations as a full partner in the last two rounds—or so it said. The element of neutrality in this partnership does not yet exist and has not been clearly shown in reality.

Perhaps we should remember how the ninth round ended, with the United States presenting a document of principles in an attempt to overcome the obstacles between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. It became clear, however, that this document was merely an American copy of the Israeli proposals that the Palestinians had already rejected, because these proposals disregarded the basic issues concerning the rights of the Palestinian people, especially regarding the question of Jerusalem.

Speaking of the 10th round that ended yesterday, it appears that its results were no different from those of the ninth and eighth rounds and the other rounds before them. America presented another document that was nowhere near meeting the least of the Palestinians' aspirations, and it fundamentally contradicted the point of reference for the peace process that began in Madrid. Thus, America once more announces its complete bias toward Israel and proves the falseness of its claims that it is playing a neutral role in the peace process that it is sponsoring.

At the same time as the United States rushes to carry out various forms of aggression against Iraq—which go as far as violating Iraq's sovereignty on the pretext of implementing resolutions of international legitimacy—it is, on the other hand, violating resolutions of international legitimacy by deceiving the world and saving the Israeli side from the predicament of implementing these resolutions, which contradict Zionist dreams.

It was said that the ninth round was decisive. It was also said that the 10th round was equally decisive and that it would make achievements on the road to a comprehensive and just peace. What is happening in reality is the repressive Zionist practices and violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories and the transgression and violation of resolutions of international legitimacy at the negotiating table. If the United States does not change the path it is following and if it does not take up a neutral and responsive position on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the failure of the peace process in its entirety is inevitable. This will push the entire region into the inferno of another conflict.

Commentary Links Jerusalem Incident, Peace Talks

LD0107212693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, another daring military operation of a new kind today attracted attention to what has been taking place inside the occupied Palestinian homeland. It also has strong links with what has been taking place over there in Washington under the rubric: talks for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, talks based upon international legality and aimed at achieving it. This rubric has only been indicated in announcements here and there, however.

Thus, the negotiations are about to end, and the 10th round of the talks is about to be concluded without any breakthroughs having been achieved. In such a breakthrough, there would be no more focusing on the form, but the subject matter would be examined, along with practical steps to be taken.

Because of the absence of any such progress, there has been an increase in and escalation of the acts of the Palestinian intifadah. This escalation, to the level of organizing daring and effective military operations, should be seen as the sole result, the only inevitable outcome, and the only possible reply from the people of Palestine. The Zionists and the Americans alike have mistakenly believed that the Palestinian people are the weaker link in the talks and the party that cannot bring any pressure to bear. They have believed that the Palestinian side has to put up with pressures from Arabs, Israelis, and Americans and has to accept such pressures and submit to them or withdraw from the talks, which would take it outside the peace process and the arrangements for the region. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people under occupation epitomize, through the daily acts of the blessed intifadah, a positive reaction to the political developments in the Arab region as a whole. Thus, the fierceness of the intifadah and its

blazing flame will grow side by side with Israeli stubbornness and in proportion to it and to the pressures that might be exerted upon our people and their leadership. That is the only way the whole world, regardless of language, stance, or mood, should understand the daring military operation that was carried out in Jerusalem this morning. Firearms were used, therefore, in order to destroy the illusion about Palestinian weakness. The kamikaze spirit of the operation was, furthermore, an affirmation of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people despite all their suffering. [passage omitted]

PLO Said Not Ready To Concede Gulf War Stand

JN0207063393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, yesterday said the PLO is not ready to reconsider its stand during the Gulf war in order to appease the Gulf states. He said the PLO is not ready to make any concessions encroaching on its dignity in order to lift the financial embargo imposed on it by the Gulf states under various pretexts.

In an attempt to explain the official Palestinian position during the Kuwait events, Qaddumi said the PLO's position sought to prevent both an internecine Arab conflict and American aggression against Iraq. He stressed that the PLO will continue to adopt pan-Arab positions.

Asked about the way out of the financial crisis facing the PLO resulting from the blocking of Gulf contributions, Qaddumi said: The way out is through the reconciliation plan proposed by the Arab League secretary general. He said this plan should be supported.

Commentary Assails U.S. Action Against Baghdad

LD0107231093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, we have not yet read a declared opinion by Arab countries or Arab rulers, from the gulf to the ocean, which is clear, definite, and of a significance that cannot be obscured, on the bombing by American aircraft and weapons carriers in the Red Sea and the Gulf to which Baghdad was subjected. This is despite the fact that the American President had clearly declared that he had consulted his allies in Europe and in the region before making the decision on the treacherous bombing of Baghdad from his weapons carriers in the waters of two of the Arab seas.

This observation we are expressing here does not imply a criticism of anyone. Rather, it carries a warning that emanates from an extreme commitment to Arab independence, reputation, and lands. What was done to Baghdad, regardless of its flimsy justifications, does not lift Baghdad's crime to the level of this aggression—an aggression that was committed with a brutality achieved only by those who believe that they can strike anywhere in the world and at any time they wish. They do not tolerate any dispute or accept any opposition. They allow only what serves their plans, views, and will, all of which embody their interests, which have absolute priority.

With a notion like this, everyone becomes exposed to a similar act, one way or another, in a similar manner or worse. Political alliances do not last for ever, and interests are not fixed, unshakable, or unchangeable. In particular, national independence is the opposite of monopolistic colonial greed and colonial dominance and control. Therefore, any country in our region or anywhere else in the world is subject to differences and is a candidate for being opposed. This raises an important question over permitting such phenomena to reoccur and become a mode of conduct adopted by the political decisionmaker in the American White House.

Probably not many people noticed what was said. On the eve of the missile attack on Baghdad, a White House spokesman stated that not only Baghdad, but Iran as well, constitutes a hotbed of terrorism and terrorists. This is a clear indication that the next target for discipline and punishment will probably be Tehran. The fact that Iran has been mentioned does not mean that it will be the last country. The American side may produce any file it wishes to start a punitive and intimidating policy. No country is excluded from this unless it can show a certificate of good conduct, sufficient to assure the U.S. Administration of total obedience, precise alignment, and loyal subservience, within the context of the scenario decided by Washington. No country has the right to take any action except one that gives clear approval and absolute support.

In our assessment, the U.S. President was intentionally blunt. He wanted everything to be clear so that there would be no mistaken perceptions or understanding. He did not stop at the significance of the vociferous and savage letter that he sent. He went further by defining its significance and regarded it as a letter addressed not only to governments and states but to organizations, parties, bodies, and individuals. All those will be subject to punishment, perhaps by cruise missiles or an atomic bomb, if they expose the interests of the United States to danger or launch terrorist attacks on these interests.

This is a strange statement coming from a superpower, more accurately the only superpower, which stipulates punishment, discipline, and strikes, extending to killing and destruction which waste the lives of innocent civilians in a particular region, without a general application to all the regions. This is not merely a double standard. It is closer to evil and cunning. It is a tyrannical selectivity that includes impudence, arbitrariness, and arrogance and stems from a disdain impregnated by a blindly racist perception that could bring the world to total destruction.

In the Gulf war, the United States dragged the whole world behind it and took it to a war that could have been avoided. It dubbed this war the war of the United Nations and the Security Council. In every step it took, the U.S. Administration went to the UN Security Council to get its clear resolution. Although the United States used all its influence and exerted maximum pressure to get the resolutions adopted, it was eager not to be arbitrary. Has the situation changed now? Did the new U.S. President, who has proved his inability to make conclusive internal decisions during the first six months of his leadership, want to surprise his countrymen and the world by vociferous and very serious decisions, turning his back on to the whole world, including his allies, whom he informed of the decision but did not involve in making it. If this is the situation, then it is a serious one, paving the way for a confrontation that could get bigger and wider than the U.S. decisionmaker can handle. [passage omitted]

It is not a coincidence that the majority of European newspapers denounced and criticized the U.S. attack and that Arab newspapers also did the same and made a link between a vociferous military action against Iraq and the failure to take any action against the Serbs. Everyone is concerned about an uncertain future under the wing of the new U.S. Administration. Perhaps the official Arab concern would be greater and more significant. Arab newspapers are not being whimsical. They express vociferous suspicions that Arab regimes feel embarrassed to voice openly.

Ghawshah Reviews Efforts To Promote National Unity

PM0107104493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Jun 93 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Barqawi] Perhaps Palestinian national reconciliation constitutes the most important issue from the Palestinian leadership's viewpoint. May we know what steps have been taken in this connection?

[Ghawshah] Without doubt, Palestinian national unity is a fundamental and essential condition for the continuation of the Palestinian struggle to achieve our aims, including the right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative—the PLO. The efforts that have been and must be made are a fundamental pivot of national action. We realize that national unity is tarnished by some blemishes. Some of them are the result of objective factors, and others are the result of subjective factors. But working for national unity remains one of the main concerns and a duty.

But we must realize that there is a need for a serious and responsible pause for consideration in order to determine the points of agreement and the points of disagreement so that we can take practical and tangible steps to embody national unity in the PLO framework. [passage omitted]

We realize that there are a number of issues and differences on the Palestinian scene. Within the PLO, which is a broad front comprising all the Palestinian national factions, forces, and figures, there are bound to be differing views. But there is always room for working to secure a common denominator.

Thus we welcome all views on the basis of examining all positions and assessing the march in the past period. But at the same time we must realize that there are institutions represented in the National Council, Central Council, and Executive Committee, which have all issued resolutions. The dialogue must be conducted on the basis of these resolutions, or we can draw up new draft resolutions and refer them to the PLO's higher body, that is, the National Council.

[Al-Barqawi] You spoke about the PLO framework. What about those outside it?

[Ghawshah] It is necessary to conduct dialogue with all the national factions, forces, and figures. But we spoke about the first stage of this dialogue, that is to say, the dialogue begins among the factions making up the PLO and can be expanded later.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there any contacts with those quarters that are still outside the PLO framework?

[Ghawshah] Contacts on the Palestinian scene have not been interrupted, even with Hamas. However, we say that daily bilateral meetings are no substitute for the establishment of comprehensive national dialogue in which all parties participate and all issues are discussed carefully and objectively.

[Al-Barqawi] Even within the PLO there are political differences over the peace process. How will these differences be viewed when the national unity question is discussed?

[Ghawshah] True, there is a contradiction among PLO factions in relation to their positions on the peace process. It can be said that this issue is the main issue around which differences on the Palestinian scene revolve. There are other aspects: organizational aspects, aspects related to conditions in PLO institutions, and financial and administrative aspects. But politically, the position on the peace process is the most prominent point.

This is why we believe that examining and assessing the 10 rounds of negotiations held so far should be one of the main topics in the national dialogue.

Of course, there are differing views on this question. There are those who agree that the peace process is a political struggle complementing the other forms of struggle, and we agree with them. This is why we focused

on all forms of struggle and at the same time stressed the need to reactivate all the other forms of struggle to fight the Israeli occupation. Our view was also that there was a need to participate in the peace process despite the injustice and the conditions imposed on the PLO. [passage omitted]

Central Committee Member on Relations Within Fatah

PM0107153093 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Jul 93 pp 26-27

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki by Nabil al-Barad'i in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Barad'i] What has happened about Yasir 'Arafat's resignation from all his posts in Fatah?

[Zaki] We have transcended that issue.

[Al-Barad'i] This resignation is not the first of its kind to be submitted by Yasir 'Arafat. Do you believe it is part of a tactic he is using to circumvent the opposition he faces from time to time?

[Zaki] We are a democratic movement, and at difficult moments historical relations necessitate that questions should be examined and convictions formed. The important thing is that it is our destiny in Fatah to continue side by side in this march.

[Al-Barad'i] How can [Fatah Central Committee member] Muhammad Ghunaym's [Abu-Mahir] accusation to Yasir 'Arafat and some of his aides of "kissing the beards" be forgotten?

[Zaki] There is not a position by a particular person, a bloc, or an axis, nor are there accusations. There is a determination to correct the march in the various domains, politically, administratively, organizationally, and financially. These conditions require radical and urgent handling to avert the danger facing us in these circumstances.

[Al-Barad'i] Recent reports said that you presided over secret meetings for representatives of influential figures belonging to Fatah in the occupied territories. What truth is there in this? And what resolutions did you adopt, if such meetings did take place?

[Zaki] The matter is exaggerated. Contacts with influential Fatah or other figures inside the occupied territories are the essence of our work as Palestinian leadership. And they are part of my responsibility within the Fatah Central Committee for organization and the intifadah. Meetings and contacts with influential Fatah figures in the occupied territories are conducted daily. But by virtue of the nature of the occupation, work is conducted secretly. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barad'i] Can it be said that you are currently leading a tendency inside the Fatah Central Committee opposed to Yasir 'Arafat's monopolization of decisionmaking?

[Zaki] I do not like the question, as it gives the impression that—God forbid—I am a coup leader. As far as we of the Central Committee are concerned, this is unacceptable in whole and in part.

Even if we assume that Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is monopolizing decisionmaking, the matter should be tackled within the PLO and Fatah. We of Fatah have learned a great deal 40 years of organization and 30 years of armed struggle. And we understand what rebellion, coups, splits, axes, and blocs mean. We will not accept them under any conditions.

Furthermore, the questions on the Palestinian scene are not raised in the form of support for or opposition to monopolization of leadership. There are general and crucial challenges facing us. They require us to adopt the positions which we ought to adopt, that is all. I emphasize that Fatah is a movement which organically rejects coups, because coups have had a devastating effect on it. And they are not the method adopted generally to make internal changes. There are forces within Fatah which disagree with and oppose one another, but all under the slogan of the struggle for unity and consolidation of the revolution and within the framework of safeguarding the unity, legitimacy, and consolidation of the movements' frameworks.

[Al-Barad'i] Why did you keep silent all those years about Yasir 'Arafat's monopolization of decisionmaking, why did you not confront him before?

[Zaki] I told you I do not like that sort of question. Your question is based on ill will and exaggeration, and you will not get me to react in a way that would lead to mistakes.

[Al-Barad'i] In the past you urged that the way in which PLO funds are spent should be watched, and that the authorization of payments should not be restricted to the signatures of 'Arafat and some of his closest aides. So what has happened since then?

[Zaki] The problem of administration and conduct at the financial and other levels is always discussed within the mechanism of Palestinian action, and I believe this will continue to be the case.

We are suffering from a lack of criteria and regulations for settling financial matters. We are making serious attempts to set matters right, certainly by enriching the dialogue within the framework. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barad'i] Some people say that at present you have one foot in Fatah and the other in Hamas. What is your reply to this accusation?

[Zaki] Those people inspire ridicule and contempt. I am a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, which represents contemporary history which cannot be abolished as long as there is an occupation.

As far as I am concerned, Fatah is more than a bridge for return, on the grounds that it is the honor and conscience

of the honorable people in this nation, irrespective of interpretations and vanities. Hamas is a Palestinian force existing in practice on the scene, and I am personally bound to members in its leadership by good relations. It is regrettable that good relations should be categorized as an accusation, when there is a decision in the region to fragment and dismember the political forces to facilitate the enemy's tasks—which we of Fatah do not accept.

Because I am a member of the Fatah leadership, I am governed by the form of the relationship among political forces which agree among themselves sometimes and differ other times. In the past we raised in Hamas the slogan of meeting on the battlefield. Hamas occupied a space on the Palestinian scene and harmonized with us in the field. And we welcome it on the basis of national unity as a strategic slogan which prompts us to push all our energies into the liberation battle. Those who want to divide our resources will not find anyone to listen to them.

[Al-Barad'i] As is known, you are opposed to the peace line led by Yasir 'Arafat. What is your alternative to it?

[Zaki] I am almost certain that the position of most Palestinian forces on the negotiations and peace efforts does not proceed from a natural or instinctive position opposed to a settlement and the negotiations in principle. I believe that the matter concerns how the Palestinians should be represented in them and also the prospects of the process.

In principle, the move toward peace is a natural and inevitable matter, especially on the part of the Palestinian people who aspire to peace, stability, and the elimination of the devastating occupation.

The argument and disagreement in this connection concern the way the negotiations are run, as the process could be run in a better, more effective, and more useful way, instead of continuing the destructive problems. Furthermore, reactivating the other pillars of struggle and adopting specialization in the various tasks inside and outside the homeland gives the negotiator a driving force that guarantees the results of the negotiations, which are linked to strength and weakness in the field. [passage omitted]

PLA's al-Khatib Refuses To Accept Retirement

JN0107151493 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Major General Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], has rejected Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's decision to pension him off.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AHALI, Maj. Gen. al-Khatib said the decision to pension him off was illegal because it is not based on the Officers Service Law, which stipulates that "the decision to pension off any officer must be taken by the Officers Committee and in the presence of the person concerned."

He said: Since at the time I was convalescing at al-Khalidi Hospital and did not attend the session in which the decision to pension me of was made, the decision is therefore considered null and void.

Maj. Gen. al-Khatib said Yasir 'Arafat made that decision during a [Fatah] Central Committee meeting in February 1993.

Jordan Bank To Open 3 Branches in West Bank

TA0107195393 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 7

[Text] Tawfiq al-Fakhuri, chairman of the Jordan Bank board of directors, left for Amman yesterday after meeting with Israel Bank officials and discussing with them the final arrangements for opening three bank branches in the West Bank.

During this meeting, attended by board member Yahya al-Qadmani, a final agreement was reached on opening those branches in Ramallah, Nabulus, and Hebron. The agreement is to be signed between the central banks of Israel and Jordan within the coming weeks.

Algeria

Comment on Punishment of Airport Bombers Clarified

LD0207085693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] A clarification was issued today by the Ministry of Interior and Localities on claims made by a number of national papers quoting Interior Minister Mohamed Hardi. The clarification stated: During his meeting with a number of journalists at the reopening of the terminal of Houari Boumediene yesterday, the minister replied to a question that noted the public found it hard to understand why there was a delay in carrying out the sentences that were passed on those involved in the airport bombing. Mohamed Hardi's reply was: No crime will ever be left unpunished; those who carried out the bombing of the airport were arrested and tried as was promised by the authorities. The minister went on to express his hope that the sentences will be carried out as soon as possible. The wording of the last sentence might lead people to think that procedures of appeal and clemency have already been exhausted, that the sentences had been upheld, and/or that the ministry was passing judgement a priori on the appeals. The Ministry of Interior and Localities clarified that such an interpretation has nothing whatsoever to do with the text and spirit of the minister's statement. The appeals are still being heard. The interior minister has not passed judgement a priori on the appeals because they are not within his sphere of authority.

Government Memorandum Defends Economic Policy

LD0107105793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Text] The government of Abdesselam Belaid warns against failure in the transition to a market economy and the dangers of such a failure. It stresses that failure in the transition to democracy must be kept well in mind. The Abdesselam government considers the proposals that are proposed as a substitute for its economic and social policy to be a Western [gharbiyan] projection in the economic sphere of the program implemented in the political sphere. Fathi Said gives an account of the government's arguments and evidence:

[Begin Said recording] The government issued a memorandum in which it reviewed the main directions of its economic program. The memorandum stressed that proposals had been made in haste and that their attendent risks were not seriously considered. It also said that these proposals were made in the absence of a minimum of means needed to manage the period of transition and within a system that, as promising as it may seem on the surface, is a disappointment.

In other words, the government of Abdesselam Belaid, as stated in the memorandum, rejected a rash program for the implementation of the restructuring plan, convinced that this would be the wrong option, which could lead to serious effects on our economy.

The document is in reply to the programs that are being proposed via the media by various ideological groups as a substitute for the government's program. These proposals call for the immediate and complete abandonment by the state of the running of economic affairs.

The existing government is stressing that the immediate implementation of the restructuring plan and the accompanying rescheduling of external debts would lead to the abandonment of the main wheels of the economic and social policy program and to the dismantling of the current economic structure, which would produce an overall social anger. The government also stresses that rashness would also have serious consequences for the national economy. Instead of resolving problems, it would sink us further into political, economic, and social crisis, and drowning may be inevitable.

As far as the government is concerned, the question asked does not address the cost of getting out of the crisis—because that cost means austerity for a few years—but instead debates the problems pertaining to the distribution of that austerity. If austerity is not managed, it will hit the more deprived groups of the population and will be the cause of the decline of the middle class, which will cause a complete schism between the haves and have-nots. Therefore, the memorandum says that the government rejects the social policy that is being prepared behind a smoke screen and is represented in media buffoonery, stressing that some people are ready to choose the benefits and seize the resources.

The memorandum concludes that, while the government proposes a controlled transition, it does not refuse the support of international institutions requiring acceptable conditions and does not deny the need to deal with external debts. The memorandum stressed that the government is continuing a dialogue with international financial institutions to discuss the possibility of an agreement that would provide Algeria with new income. [end recording]

The memorandum says that the government is positive about the fact that there are possibilities to overcome the financial crisis. The Abdesselam government has managed to pinpoint how to obtain resources in hard currency, in addition to traditional exports. According to the memo, the IMF and the World Bank believe that Algeria is a special case that has potential in view of the expected increase in its gas exports.

So what are the financial resources that the government has been talking about? Here are more details from Fathi Said:

[Begin Said recording] The government has defined the various kinds of resources as follows:

- the rights from entering into partnership agreements to partially reclaim oil wells that are still pumping oil;
- resorting to short-term commercial loans; resorting to more loans from the international financial markets that are still open to Algeria. However, to obtain resources from them without making great concessions depends upon the restoration of the state's credibility and stability;
- signing bilateral agreements on the renegotiation of those loans that require prior agreement by the IMF;
- resorting to loans from international bodies, such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Community.

In addition to the above, there is also the possibility of debt rescheduling. However, such a decision would cancel the possibility of obtaining further loans. Also, rescheduling would lead to the imposition of political conditions, a requirement that Algeria has been rejecting.

The memo also pointed out that the government is looking into the new area of debt rescheduling, which is being discussed with financial institutions. The memo analyzes the repercussions of such kinds of financing, but it does not say whether an agreement with the IMF would be preferred or not. It does, however, point out the repercussions that would follow the renegotiation of loans or of rescheduling per se on the imports of consumer goods once the Algerian market is fully open for foreign trade. The memo asserts that production plants will not benefit from it, and no jobs will be created as a result.

An agreement with the IMF would impose a number of conditions. Only businesses able to compete in the international market will benefit from it; and the dinar will be devalued. Its devaluation will reduce imports at a time when the country needs more imports to improve economic growth and create jobs. Nevertheless, in order to surmount the hurdle of devaluation, the memo points out the possibility of meeting the IMF demand by creating a free market for hard currency that would exist in parallel with the official market, which would control deals on essential commodities.

As far as freeing prices is concerned, it seems that financial institutions have accepted the temporary subsidy of the prices of milk, bread, flour, and medicine. The memo concludes that the government has examined and evaluated all these possibilities and their social cost. It has, however, been endeavoring to reduce the cost to an acceptable level.

The government has previously affirmed in its action program that it would prefer to carry out a controlled transition to a market economy because it believes that such a transition would not be beneficial to the country unless it is done in an organized fashion. [end recording]

Egypt

Government Tightens Control of Travel to Libya

NC0107114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Major General Faruq 'Umar Sabri, director of the Travel Documents Department at the Interior Ministry, has stated that from 3 July, a passport will be the only document that will enable citizens to cross the al-Sallum land post. He said the step would enable the authorities to tighten control over arrivals and departures. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Sabri said there will be no change regarding Libyan brothers, who can travel with a passport or identity card.

Gulf States Announce Decision To Lift Embargo

NC0107205493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Tulbah]

[Text] Gulf countries have agreed to lift the embargo on Egyptian companies trading with Israel. The Egyptian Government has received a memorandum from Gulf countries informing it of that decision.

The decision applies to the al-Muhandis Soft Drinks Company, al-Muhandis Bank, a number of state and privately owned food companies, tourist agencies, advertising companies, manufacturing companies, road construction companies, as well as companies engaged in the reexportation of Israeli goods.

Article Blames U.S. for 'Crisis' in Relations

NC0107210093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 7

[Article by Muhammad 'Asfur: "Is There a Crisis in U.S.-Egyptian Relations?"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, there is a crisis between the United States and the regime. It started when the president visited the United States. This crisis became worse and came out in the open due to the biting criticism of U.S. policy and politicians published by AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper for two consecutive weeks.

We have no place here to delve into the details of this dispute, which AL-SHA'B newspaper reported in many of its issues. We are, however, interested in the long article Ibrahim Sa'dah would not have dared publish on 5 June in AKHBAR AL-YAWM (a national—that is, government—newspaper) had he not been given the green light to do so. Apart from accusations leveled against the United States of supporting terrorism in the form of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the article's headline is extremely provocative: "An American Fad: First They Accuse Him, Then Defend Him." Under this

major headline, there are subheadlines, some of which are: "The chief of U.S. investigations said: The Shaykh Is Here in the United States Under the Protection of the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency" and "A U.S. Official Said Shaykh 'Umar Is a Person No One Is Allowed To Approach." The following week, AKHBAR AL-YAWM published pictures, reports, headlines, and descriptions degrading the U.S. President, "the Lame Duck in the White House"; the secretary of state, "the Secretary of Shhhhh!"; and the defense secretary, "Emotional Adventures by the U.S. Secretary of Defense."

Although the official U.S. stand remained unpublicized, the U.S. press has exposed this stand in all its details. This campaign was led by two prominent newspapers - THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. The first newspaper expresses the views of the White House, the Pentagon, and State Department, and the second those of the financial and economic forces that actually control the American political arena. Basically, it is not considered a news newspaper and therefore it does not delve into the details of things. It is one of the most conservative newspapers. In its Monday, 14 June, issue, it discussed on the front page the details of the dispute between the United States and the regime, which is considered a very important and dangerous thing. This is because the published report, in addition to the important details it contained, carries very sensational headlines, such as "Growing Concern Faces the Egyptian Regime," "Critics Accuse Regime of Spending Billions of Dollars of U.S. Government Aid," etc. Part of this report cited an observer who said that Egypt is like Lebanon in 1975, on the brink of an abyss. Accusations of corruption, brutality, and incompetence have made the regime lose its credibility, and anger is spreading from the muddy fields of Upper Egypt to the haphazard districts around Cairo.

We will deal with these accusations objectively and fairly and expose America's responsibility for causing many of them or covering up some of them. But we believe it is necessary to note at the start the grave significance of leveling these accusations against the ruling regime, which has enjoyed much patronage, support, and even backing since the time of al-Sadat.

I believe that the primary significance is Washington's admission (with its usual candor) of its role in establishing or bringing down a regime! The U.S. paper underlined the legitimacy of U.S. intervention in Egypt's ruling regime in particular. It stated candidly: The great turmoil in Egypt threatens one of its important strategic allies. From the time Egypt and Israel concluded the peace treaties at Camp David in 1978, the United States has poured $30 billion in aid to Egypt, which is second only to the $40 billion given to Israel. Washington hoped that this aid would achieve stability in the region. Most of this aid was spent on modernizing the army. It also facilitated Egypt's cooperation in the Middle East peace efforts and the implementation of U.S. policy in other areas, such as Somalia, Iraq, and Iran. Yet this aid has not achieved stability, thus giving rise to questions about the usefulness of the U.S. annual aid to Egypt, which totals $2.1 billion and which is well spent. A large number of businessmen and intellectuals believe that this aid has not served the objective because poverty and anger are igniting the fire of Islamic fundamentalism. This is how the United States is viewing the tense and deteriorating security situation in Egypt. Despite the painful admission that the regime has paid "the return" for the aid it is receiving and has participated in or helped implement U.S. policy in the Middle East, the United States is holding the regime responsible for the "instability" in the region and is accusing it of igniting the fire of Islamic fundamentalism as a result of the poverty and even as a result of excessive military spending. What is really perplexing is an article published by the paper and attributed to Richard Haas, President Bush's assistant for Middle East affairs on the National Security Council. Haas says that he finds Egypt in the pre-crisis stage. Therefore he advises President Mubarak to ensure that Egyptian leaders not become alienated or forced to go underground because they have reached a satisfactory level of ridicule, frustration, and alienation.

The question that must be asked is this: Can the United States absolve itself of the responsibility for the spread of corruption in many satellite countries and even for many crimes of terrorism being perpetrated in Egypt and other places, which it is using as an excuse to accuse the regime of failing to achieve stability!!

Morocco

Democratic Bloc Calls For Review of Candidates

LD0107142193 Rabat MAP in English 1344 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, Jul. 1 (MAP)—The Moroccan parties forming the Democratic Bloc namely the Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Party for Progress and Socialism [PPS] and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action renewed their request to cancel the candidacies of ministers and of candidates with no-political obedience (SAP) [expansion unknown] and consequently to cancel the results obtained by these candidates.

In a release circulated Thursday [1 July] by these parties dailies, the four parties recall the memorandum they sent on June 11 to the national commission entrusted with monitoring the electoral operations and wherein they had explained "the political, constitutional and juridical considerations banning the violation of provisions and commitments concerning the electoral process."

The four parties which held a meeting last Tuesday to assess the results of the poll of June 25 said the candidate-ministers abused influence and used all available public means in the constituencies they ran in.

The Democratic Bloc parties renewed attachment to the contents of the memorandum of June 11 regardless of the cases already referred or to be referred shortly to courts and requesting the cancellation of the candidacies of ministers and of SAP candidates.

The ministers whose election is challenged by the Democratic Bloc are Ministers of Public Works Mohamed Kabbaj, of Youth and Sports Abdallah Belkziz who ran under the banner of the Constitutional Union (US), of Foreign Trade, Foreign Investments and Tourism Hassan Abou Ayoub who run under the colors of the Popular Movement and of National Education Taieb Chkili who ran under the banner of the PPS, member of the bloc.

OAU Urged To Suspend Western Sahara's Membership

LD0107140793 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Rabat, Jul. 1 (MAP)—Four Moroccan political parties have requested the African summit held in Cairo to "make the necessary decision for suspending the membership of the so-called Sahrawi Republic" [Western Sahara] within the Organization of African Unity in order to guarantee the OAU contribution to the success of the United Nations settlement plan on the Sahara.

In a letter to Egyptian President and OAU acting Chairman Husni Mubarak, the Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Party for Progress and Socialism and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action outlined that such a decision will "ease the task of the UN secetary general regarding the implementation of the Security Council resolutions 621, 658, 690 and 725 and of the reports addressed to the Security Council by the former and current UN secretary generals."

Underlining that the so-called Sahrawi Republic has no existence whatsoever on the Moroccan Sahara territory, the four political parties recalled that Morocco, a founding member of the OAU, was forced to withdraw from the pan-African organization because of the illegal excesses committed by the OAU administration which sided with the trend targeting the dismemberment of the Moroccan territory and the creation of a puppet state in its southern parts, even though the issue was submitted to the UN.

The Moroccan parties voiced hope to see the OAU endeavor for the liberation of Africa from the after-effects of colonialism and neo-colonialism and from the consequences of racism which is still affecting some people of oppressed Africa. The parties urged the OAU to work for the promotion of democracy and for economic and social development to alleviate the burden of poverty and under-nutrition and for ending the civil wars tearing apart a number of African states.

They also called for lifting the embargo imposed on Libya. [passage omitted]

King Meets With West African Presidents

LD0107164793 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpt] At the Royal Court in Rabat this evening, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received a number of African presidents in succession and held private talks with them. They were Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Republic of Rwanda; Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; Lansana Conte, president of Guinea; and Miguel Trovoada, president of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

General Lansana Conte and Amos Sawyer, president of Liberia, arrived in Morocco this afternoon. They were greeted upon arrival at Rabat-Sale airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Pro-Iraq Committee Criticizes Attack on Baghdad

LD0107144893 Rabat MAP in English 1410 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Rabat, July 1 (MAP)—The Moroccan National Committee for the Support of Iraqi People said the latest U.S air strike against Baghdad is a dangerous change in the policy of the new American administration regarding Iraq. The attack harms world peace and security and unveils the U.S two standards policy in international conflicts, said a release by the Moroccan committee stressing the American contradictory stands in dealing with the Bosnian and the Palestinian issues. The committee called the international community and the UN secretary general to act for the respect of the UN charter and for the struggle against international terrorism. It also called the Arab League to take urgent measures for the implementation of the common Arab defense conventions.

The committee, composed of the major Moroccan opposition parties and trade unions, appealed to Moroccans to back Iraqi people facing an unfair international embargo and aggression. [passage omitted]

Sudan

'Imminent' Cabinet Reshuffle, Other Changes Rumored

NC0107152393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1342 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Jul (MENA)—There are rumors about an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Sudan and a change in the number and size of governorates [wilayat].

Well-informed sources have told a MENA correspondent in Khartoum that the number of governorates will

be increased from nine to 17. According to the same sources, Khartoum Deputy Governor Colonel Yusuf 'Abd-al-Fattah, will be appointed Khartoum governor. The current Khartoum governor will join the Economic Military Institution.

'Ali 'Uthman, deputy secretary general of the Islamic Front and member of the National Council, is expected to be head a new ministry called the Ministry of Social Planning. The Ministry of Trade is expected to be merged with the Ministry of Industry, which is currently headed by Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa. The minister of trade will be appointed as minister of planning. A new ministry will be created for Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, currently minister of planning, to suit his interests in peace and development.

The ministers of sports and culture are expected to be relieved from their posts and their ministries abolished. Outgoing ministers are expected to join the Transitional National Council (parliament), which will in its turn undergo some changes.

According to the same sources, Labor Minister Major General Dominic Kassiano will be appointed a deputy for Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. Before that, the Revolutionary Command Council will be dissolved and al-Bashir will be (?recommended) for the post of president.

Ethiopia's Meles Arrives 1 Jul on Official Visit

EA0107204093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The Ethiopian president, Meles Zenawi, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon on an official visit to the country in company of a high-level delegation which includes the Ethiopian foreign minister. He was received on arrival at Khartoum Airport by the Revolution Command Council chairman, [Lieutenant] General 'Umar al-Bashir. [passage omitted]

In a press statement, President Meles said that during the visit he will be meeting with the Sudanese leadership on issues of mutual concern. They will also review issues connected with the promotion of the two countries' bilateral relations, in addition to the Somali conflict, with a view to reconciling the conflicting sides in Somalia.

Kuwait

* Sa'd Intervenes in Assembly-Cabinet 'Conflict'

93P50219A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Nasir al-Mutayri]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Prime Minister and Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has intervened to calm the deep-rooted conflict between the executive and legislative branches, after the situation between them exploded during a session of discussions on Kuwaiti investments the day before yesterday.

In a surprise step, Shaykh Sa'd yesterday asked that the speaker and members of the National Assembly hold a closed meeting with him Saturday evening [26 June] without specifying the subjects that he will present for discussion. However, Deputy Dr. Nasir al-Sani' said that the goal of the meeting is to reach appropriate solutions in the matter of the various problems between the two sides.

Al-Sani'—who is the rapporteur of the foreign affairs committee in the National Assembly—mentioned that he hopes the meeting will deal with "serious and effective topics." He said that, in addition to the problem of foreign investments and the demand to try officials for misappropriations, the deputies will discuss with Shaykh Sa'd the issue of the current confrontation between Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah and the chairman and members of the fact-finding commission [on the Iraqi invasion] on matters connected with rearmament.

This meeting comes on the same day in which the National Assembly organizes its debates on the investment scandals that have threatened to topple the government. Government sources said yesterday that Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan, who faces strong pressure to resign, has remained aloof from the affair, considering that he has taken all the necessary measures beginning with forwarding the matter to the public prosecutor's office and ending with requesting the help of Interpol to arrest the three suspects in the case, Fahd and Khalid al-Sabah and Fu'ad Ja'far.

The sources stated that what happened in the session was natural and taken for granted by democratic practice. Within the same framework, other political sources expressed their fears that the hour of confrontation between the Assembly and the Government is approaching, something which may lead to the dissolution of the National Assembly once again. Some point out that "July the third is coming closer," referring to the fact that the previous National Assembly was dissolved on 3 July 1986.

In addition, some of the deputies warned against opening the file of excesses in the oil sector. Deputy Nasir al-Sani' said, "This file is no less dangerous than the foreign investments file, which has not yet been closed."

From another angle, the National Assembley asked First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to hold a meeting on Monday with the Assembly's foreign affairs committee to discuss the future of relations with the "hostile states." He will be asked about the reasons for inviting Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia to Kuwait.

'End' of Dispute With Defense Minister

PM0207091093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 1

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Dispute Between Kuwaiti Parliament and Defense Minister Settled"]

[Text] Kuwait—Deputy Salih al-Faddalah, deputy speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and head of the fact-finding committee, has announced the end of the dispute between the committee and Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah.

This came after a three-hour meeting between the two sides, which was attended by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, who had asked for a two-week period to settle the dispute and to find an acceptable formula "to boost cooperation between the government and the assembly in the interests of public welfare."

Shaykh Sa'd said that the "meeting was positive and useful." But he declined to go into details. He told reporters: "Ask al-Faddalah."

Salih al-Faddalah stressed that "as a result of the heir apparent and prime minister's attendance, it was possible to contain the situation and settle the dispute between the fact-finding committee and the defense minister." He pointed out that the committee will continue its work as a fact-finding committee, not as an investigating committee as the Assembly had intended before the dispute was settled.

Al-Faddalah said that "Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's attendance at the meeting with the defense minister helped a great deal to achieve a solution." He pointed out that "Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah will provide the committee investigating armament excesses with the required documents."

The dispute erupted between Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah and the fact-finding committee following the formation of a committee arising from the fact-finding committee which was assigned to investigate the excesses of military arms deals for the Kuwaiti Army. Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah revealed the existence of suspicions over financial excesses in arms purchases for the Army. The defense minister asked to see the evidence, but the committee refused on the grounds that he was a party to the subject of investigation. The head of

the fact-finding committee said that the defense minister had begun to obstruct the committee's work. He went beyond that, threatening to turn the fact-finding committee over to an investigating committee and to refer those suspected to the prosecutor general. Following Shaykh Sa'd's intervention in the dispute Shaykh 'Ali announced that he would comply with any decision he [Shaykh Sa'd] issues on this question.

Rapid Deployment Force Set Up on Northern Border

PM0207095493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 4

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Kuwaiti Rapid Deployment Force on Northern Border With Iraq"]

[Text] Kuwait—Deputy 'Abbas Munawir, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Interior and Defense Committee, revealed in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday the existence of a Kuwaiti Rapid Deployment Force on Kuwait's northern border with Iraq.

Munawir said that the committee had received a proposal in this connection from a number of deputies, and referred it, after approval, to the leaders of the Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, and National Guard, who agreed to it and decided to embark on the stage of implementation.

Munawir asserted that the committee is seeking to take all the necessary measures to reinforce the posts on the northern border with Iraq, especially the al-'Abdali command. He said that the committee had agreed to a proposal to reinforce these posts with personnel and the necessary motorized units and to link all border posts with an asphalted road after providing them with advanced technological equipment and remote-control systems.

He added that defense and security leaders in Kuwait had been informed of the need to allocate a "rear command" to every five border posts, selecting these commands from the Kuwaiti Army's intelligence service and the state security organ; to form a rapid deployment detachment; and to use the Interior Ministry's "special forces," which are well trained militarily and technically—which is bound to reinforce Kuwait's border security with Iraq.

Deputy Munawir pointed out in his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the committee had agreed to another proposal for the Kuwaiti National Guard, in addition to the Army, to assume the task of guarding the northern border and protecting the country from infiltrators and saboteurs, thus making the National Guard a force parallel to the Kuwaiti Army because of its high combat and defense capability and the well-trained Kuwaiti elements it includes.

Qatar

Heir Apparent Meets Visiting Chinese Vice Premier

JN3006134293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Text] Doha, 30 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari heir apparent, today received today visiting Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported they discussed the joint desire to bolster bilateral ties and cooperation in all fields, particularly trade and economy. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

King Issues Decree Merging Refineries in Saudi Aramco

LD0107175693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Jul (SPA)—The following royal decree—No. M/1 of 1 July 1993—has been issued:

With God's assistance, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia, having taken cognizance of Articles 19, 20, 28, and 31 of the Council of Ministers statute issued by Royal Decree No. 38 of May 1958, and the statute of Petromin, the General Establishment for Petroleum and Mines, issued by Royal Decree No. 25 of December 1382, and of the statute of Saudi Aramco, the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, issued by Royal Order No. 8 of November 1988, and Council of Ministers Resolution No. 157 of June 1993, decree the following:

First, all the refineries, oil products distribution facilities, and Petromin's rights in joint refineries shall be merged in Saudi Aramco. Second, Saudi Aramco shall be responsible for all the obligations of Petromin pertaining to these operations and facilities and the rights therein. Third, his highness the deputy prime minister and the ministers, each within his competence, will implement this decree.

UN Failure To Lift Bosnian Arms Embargo Decried

LD0207035193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jul 93

["News and Comment" commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Brothers, peace and God's blessing be upon you. The UN Security Council has failed to support a proposal calling for the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, amid the increasing conviction that the international community has dropped the operation of stopping the war of genocide waged by the Serbs

against the Bosnian people and, thus, has enabled the aggressor to impose a fait accompli.

It is sad—actually it is shameful—that the views of the active countries of the international community should reach a point of consensus and agree to disregard the annihilation of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to avoid the establishment of an Islamic state in the middle of Europe. The manifestations of this disregard are numerous and take various forms. However, in reality, it expresses an option, namely the prevention of the establishment of an Islamic state.

On the basis of that background, the international community has been dealing with the tragedy of the Bosnian people, who have been and are still being subjected to a war of genocide that has lasted more than 20 months, without reaching a solution to the tragedy. This strengthens the conviction that there is a lack of seriousness in dealing with this human problem, which would not have reached this stage without the extreme and intentional procrastination to prolong the war of genocide waged by the Serbs against a UN member state that is exposed to a blatant aggression based on ethnic cleansing. This is counter to international legitimacy, which with extreme regret and pain stands with its hands tied before international interjections that paralyze its will and openly prevent it from exercising its role. That role is to remove injustice from a people whose only crime—for which they are being punished—is that they are exercising their legitimate right to choose and to establish on their territory the system that suits the interests of their country and people.

What is happening to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is truly regrettable in that international law and divine laws before that respect and guarantee a man's right to practice his faith without being forced to abandon it and without his adherence to his faith becoming a crime for which he deserves to be punished and annihilated. It is really regrettable that all these practices by the Serbs are met with bitter silence by the international community, particularly by its active states. These states openly remark that they are against lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable it defend itself in its confrontation with the Serb aggressors, who possess a large arsenal of weapons in addition to receiving arms and ammunition through neighboring countries.

Under these inhuman conditions, the international community seems as though it is contributing—rather, it is indeed contributing—to the annihilation of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Its justification for this is a mixture of sarcastic laughter and weeping. The flimsy justification is that the opposition of those countries to the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia is due to their fear of enlarging the area of the war and for the lives of UN personnel who have no role in stopping the tragedy or even easing it—as though the war has not spread and as though the Serbs have not seized over 70 percent of Bosnian territory.

The tragedy of a man's injustice against his brother reaches its peak in the absence of conscience. The hideousness of the cheapening of a man's life in exchange for the protection of another's lies in the fact that the compatriots possess the power to defend this falsehood. God is sufficient for us. He is the best trustee.

United Arab Emirates

Chinese Vice Premier Arrives For Economic Talks

JN0107184793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Jul (WAKH)—PRC Vice Premier Li Lanqing arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening leading an important economic delegation on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his current tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

On arrival, the Chinese vice premier stated that he will hold talks with UAE officials on bolstering and promoting bilateral economic and trade relations and the possibility of opening new areas for this cooperation in the future.

He said that China and the UAE are linked by friendly relations on all levels, especially in the economic and trade fields. He indicated that there are many Chinese commercial offices in the UAE.

He expressed the hope that his visit will promote and bolster this cooperation in the future. He also praised the good bilateral relations under the existing cooperation between the leaders of the two countries. He attributed this to the numerous mutual stands between the leaders and governments of the two countries. At the same time, he expressed the hope that this cooperation will continue and will be further developed in the future.

INA Reports Tariq 'Aziz 1 Jul Interview on CNN

JN0107202793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Washington, 1 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has categorically denied false allegations and accusations about Iraq's involvement in any kind of terrorism.

In an interview with CNN this evening, 'Aziz said Iraq was not involved in the plot to assassinate George Bush, if there was any plot at all.

The deputy prime minister added that Iraq was not involved with any terrorist parties, as has been said lately. He said there has been no evidence in the past that Iraq resorted to terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens or U.S. interests.

'Aziz called on those who accuse Iraq of such acts to provide evidence and the names of Americans killed in terrorist attacks engineered by Iraq or Iraqi agencies.

On the terrorist U.S. aggression against Baghdad on 27 June, 'Aziz said the attack was absolutely not justified. It is not only Iraq who says this but also many people even in the United States.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the evidence presented at the United Nations was poor and unconvincing. It is a very unfortunate development, he said.

The deputy prime minister asserted: We never thought of attacking Bush or any American official, whether in the previous administration or this administration. That is not our main concern. Our main concern has been, in the last few months, and we made it clear—I personally made it clear in my last interview with you—to have a quiet and normal relationship with the new U.S. Administration. We made an initiative on 19th January and we stopped the hostilities unilaterally, and during the last few months we were very keen to keep the situation very quiet, whether on the bilateral level between Iraq and the United States, and Iraq and the United Nations.

Tariq 'Aziz continued: This attack came as a surprise to us, a complete surprise. While I was in Geneva talking to the UN secretary general about further talks between Iraq and the United Nations aimed at solving the problems regarding the resumption of talks about the export of oil; while the foreign minister sent a message to the president of the Council on 30 May, asking for a general assessment of what has been implemented of Resolution 687, and what are the outstanding issues; while we expressed our sincere will to discuss and address all these issues in an objective, professional, technical manner in order to solve them; and while we were encouraging the Special Commission in New York to start technical discussions with us, this unfortunate attack happened. So it was not the making of Iraq. Iraq did not want that kind of development.

Tariq 'Aziz added that this action is an act of aggression and an arrogant act against the Iraqi people and Government.

The deputy prime minister went on: We were disappointed. Not only the Iraqis are disappointed, but many people in the world and this region are greatly disappointed.

Answering a question about whether what happened had destroyed efforts to build up a new relationship with the United States, he said: I hope it will not. I hope that the Clinton administration will not resort to this kind of behavior toward Iraq. As I have said several times, and as my president has repeatedly asserted, Iraq is not an enemy of the United States. Making an enemy of Iraq is absurd. The enemy should declare himself as an enemy.

The deputy prime minister added: We might have differences, yes. However, these differences could be worked out in a civilized manner. We suggested dialogue at the beginning of this year. The suggestion was neglected. We still suggest dialogue.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We are ready to solve all the bilateral and multilateral issues. We are ready for that. But this kind of policy is a continuation of the previous policy which has been a failure. It has not achieved any positive results, whether in serving the interests of the United States or serving the cause of stability in this region.

Tariq 'Aziz went on: This region is becoming more and more dangerous because of this kind of arrogant, irresponsible, and sometimes, let me say, amateurish policy, which has been conducted vis-a-vis Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The operation was an act of aggression against Iraq. If those who thought of it think that they are serving the United States, I think, if they are not evil, they are amateurs.

He went on: I am speaking on behalf of the government and the leadership. This is the position of the government and the leadership. We are not in the leadership contemplating an act of revenge. Without excluding our legitimate right of self-defense, we are not contemplating any designs of revenge. That is not going to serve our interests. But you cannot contain the feelings and sentiments of the people. People were killed, civilians were killed. [Artist] Layla al-'Attar and some children were killed or injured, and the Iraqi people are really angry, bitterly angry, because they said we have a new administration in the United States, we want to have a better relationship with this administration and with the United States.

The deputy prime minister continued: We are offering dialogue. We are offering a peaceful relationship. And then, suddenly without justification, without notice, Baghdad is bombed at 2 o'clock in the morning. So the Iraqi people are really angry. But this anger does not mean that the leadership and the government are contemplating any act of revenge. It does not serve the cause

of peace in this region, and we would like to have a quiet and peaceful relationship with the United States and the world at large.

Answering a question whether the government would condone any unilateral acts of revenge, either inside or outside Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz said: I do not think that we will condone that. I do not think that this will happen.

The deputy prime minister added: There are many Americans here. You are an American and your crew are Americans, and nobody has taken any hostile attitude toward you.

Answering a question about the U.S. Government warning to U.S. citizens, Tariq 'Aziz said that is their own business.

Asked whether the attack has weakened the leadership, Tariq 'Aziz said: Any foreign attack against any country, including Iraq, will not weaken the leadership. It weakens and distorts the image of the attacker. So the image of the United States now inside Iraq is worse than it was before.

The deputy prime minister asserted: The people in this country are disappointed with the United States and with the Security Council. They are very angry about the continuation of the sanctions. But take it as a fact, this country has survived for thousands of years. Iraq has survived a lot of difficult times in the past and in recent history as well—the war with Iran lasted for eight years. Iraq will survive, and the Iraqi people have the ingenuity that will enable them to survive.

Answering a question on how the Iraqis will go about building better relations with the United States and its allies, Tariq 'Aziz said: There is no limit to what you do or what you intend to do. We strongly believe that we have shown good intentions. We have done many things, but the other side has not shown any interest in talking to us in a civilized, constructive manner, and I mean the United States. That does not mean all the other parties.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The other parties in the Security Council have a relatively different approach toward Iraq. We do not know what is enough and what is not enough. When we suggested on 30 May having discussions with the four or five permanent members of the Security Council, including the United States, we said let us sit and talk: What has been implemented of Resolution 687? What is the real assessment of what has been implemented? What remains to be implemented? Let us discuss that in a professional, technical, and legal manner. So we showed our good intention for dialogue, for reaching understanding, but the U.S. ambassador at the United Nations refused the Iraqi proposals. That was not the position of the other members.

In response to a question by CNN network on the outstanding issues under Resolution 687, Tariq 'Aziz said: We were urging the Special Committee for technical talks, and there was an initial agreement that such technical talks will take place in New York on 12 July, and we were ready to send a high-level technical delegation to address all these matters. However, there is a tendency among some circles in the Special Committee to exaggerate those issues and to develop them into a state of crisis.

As regards the chemical weapons, we asked the Special Committee to allow us to use them for the production for pesticides. They know that they could be used for that purpose. We need pesticides. We are an agricultural society. We are not allowed to import pesticides, and we want to produce them. They did not agree. We said okay. The equipment was delivered to the inspection team and it could be destroyed today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow—it is up to them.

As regards the flights over Baghdad, the United Nations inspection teams do not need to fly over Baghdad to check the Iraqi industrial production, because simply there are no industrial sites in the city of Baghdad. They are using the helicopters in checking and in surveillance for all the other sites all over the country. So why insisting on flying over Baghdad? This is not a normal act. We have made our position clear to them in a way which we hope that the other side will be convinced.

This is a logical stand by Iraq: They they do not need helicopters to fly over Baghdad. If they want to check any place which is covered by Resolution 687 inside Baghdad, they can go by cars, and that is even easier and more efficient for them.

In response to a question on installing cameras, the deputy prime minister said: The question is not of cameras, and whether they are installed or not. First of all, we told the Special Committee that the timing is incorrect. We are planning technical discussions. Let us have the technical discussions, see where we stand, what all the outstanding issues are, what your list of demands is, what remains of your demands in accordance with Resolution 687. In return, we are always raising the question of the economic sanctions, because if you implement, according to the letter of Resolution 687, when Iraq implements Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of Resolution 687, all the economic and financial sanctions must be lifted, according to the resolution itself. The question of lifting the sanctions has to be addressed honestly and in a concrete manner.

In response to a question on why Iraq has not agreed to all demands made of it to see the sanctions lifted, Tariq 'Aziz said: We do not have a solid promise that the sanctions would be lifted if all this and that were implemented. That is what we would like to be sure of. Up to now, the most essential aspects of Resolution 687 have been implemented.

'Aziz added: The most important aspects are the destruction of the weapons factories [as received]. They have all been destroyed. The equipment directly involved in the development and production of such weapons has been destroyed. All the other equipment in the country has

been checked by the inspection teams, and it is under their continuous control, in the sense that they look at it and see what it is doing. They are totally convinced that Iraq is not in the business of producing the banned weapons. Therefore, under Clause C of Resolution 687, this is linked with the matter of economic sanctions, and this clause has been already implemented. There are some other issues.

In his interview with CNN, the deputy prime minister said: Let them tell us what the remaining issues are. Let us sit and discuss how to solve them. We believe that we have done enough. But the other side does not agree with this. Let them sit with us on the technical level first and on the political level later with the permanent members of the Security Council who are the guardians of the Security Council resolutions. Let us see what our commitments toward the resolutions are. And let us see what the commitments of the five permanent members and the Council in general toward Iraq are. It is illegitimate, according to the Security Council resolutions, to maintain the sanctions against Iraq forever.

The sanctions were imposed for certain circumstances. Those circumstances do not exist anymore. If there are some other questions that have to be addressed, we are ready to discuss those matters, as you see, in an objective, technical, and legal manner to try to reach an agreement with the Security Council.

The United States is sabotaging this process. The American ambassador at the Security Council has refused to accept the Iraqi suggestion. So it is not Iraq that is sabotaging the continuation or the implementation or finalizing this issue. It is the American side which is doing that.

The deputy prime minister added: We would like to know what the result would be. Will the Security Council lift the sanctions? Will the United States, which has been behind keeping the present state, accept that the sanctions against Iraq be lifted? Will it not sabotage this process, which is getting more and more support from the world at large?

Tariq 'Aziz stressed: I hope that they will change their stand and behave in a legal and normal manner. They have to respect the resolutions. They say in the U.S Administration that Iraq has to comply with the UN resolutions. Okay, the United States should also comply with the UN resolutions.

The Government of the United States should not add political conditions that are not already in the UN resolutions. Lately, some U.S. officials raised some topics irrelvant to the UN resolutions. This is a political attitude by the U.S. Administration, and it contravenes the Security Council resolutions.

Asked whether the Iraqi Government has given up any hope for a change in President Clinton's position, the Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister said: In the relations between states, you should not act as individuals sometimes act. The United States is a state, and we hope that this most powerful state in the world will consider its interests in this region in a better manner.

I not saying this as an Iraqi only but as an observer. I believe that the policy that has been maintained against Iraq in the past and now is wrong and is not serving the final interests of the United States.

In response to a question by CNN on U.S. aircraft's opening fire on an Iraqi radar position and whether that means that Iraq will defy no-fly zones in the south and the north, Tariq 'Aziz said: First of all, that attack was unjustified, because the missile was not functioning at all. Therefore, it is an unjustified act. About the no-fly zone, we have made our position clear. There is great international support for our argument that this no-fly zone is not a part of a UN resolution. It is a unilateral decision by the Government of the United States. It was supported by the British and French Governments in 1992. There is no need for this decision. It is an infringement on the sovereignty of Iraq. We are still committed to the cease-fire decision of January 1993. But we reject the no-fly zone.

Baghdad Reportedly Expels BBC Crew, CNN Reporter

JN0207063693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad yesterday expelled BBC correspondent (Jeremy Bowen) and his four-man camera crew as well as CNN correspondent Bob Reynolds in a protest against the nature of their reporting. The Iraqi information minister had no comment on their expulsion.

Brutus-Ghali Cited on Tariq 'Aziz Meeting, New Talks

JN0207074293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali emphasized today that signs of openness were witnessed in Baghdad's policy a few days before the U.S. attack on the headquarters of Iraqi Intelligence in the Iraqi capital last Sunday [27 June].

Last Tuesday, the United Nations announced in Geneva that Iraqi-UN talks would resume in New York on 7 July on the partial lifting of the oil embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council.

On 21 June, Butrus-Ghali received Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva.

Asked today about issues discussed at that meeting, Brutus-Ghali stressed that he discussed with 'Aziz all subjects and controversial issues between the United Nations and Iraq.

He said: We have agreed on the need to start a partial lifting of the oil embargo, and that if a solution is reached, then a new political atmosphere would help reach solutions to other aspects of the conflict that are attached to the embargo in general, and the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Butrus-Ghali expressed the hope that the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush, which Washington alleges the Iraqi officials ordered, and the U.S. raid last Sunday will not obstruct the resumption of dialogue. He said: One of the UN objectives is to continue this dialogue.

The Iraqi delegation to the New York talks on 7 July will be led by Foreign Ministry's undersecretary, Dr. Riyadh al-Qaysi.

Butrus-Ghali said Richard Filchhawer, the official in charge of legal affairs [name and title as heard], will represent the United Nations in these talks.

Civil Defense Official Rounds Up Missile Attack Losses

JN0107114793 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 93 p 4

[Text] Baghdad—AL-JUMHURIYAH—Lieutenant Colonel Akram Mahmud Muhammad, director of the Civil Defense in the al-Karkh side of Baghdad and supervisor of rescue and civil defense operations, has said that the organs of the Civil Defense and the Baghdad municipality, the cadres of the Baghdad Governorate, and a number of citizens, in the presence of the Interior Ministry under secretary for security affairs, began rescue operations and searching for the bodies of civilian martyrs a few minutes after the missiles of aggression fell on beloved Baghdad, Sunday [27 June] morning. He stressed that the rescue operations were accomplished in record time as all efforts converged to rescue the defenseless victims and remove the debris of the criminal aggression.

The director of the Civil Defense in Baghdad stated that among those martyred by the missiles of the aggressors were artist Layla al-'Attar, a Sri Lankan woman named Khadijah, and a one-and-a-half-years-old child. Many people were wounded, some seriously. He said that the number of houses damaged in this criminal aggression, which targeted residential areas and defenseless citizens, was 38, three of which were completely destroyed while the others were partially damaged. He added that 45 civilian vehicles were also damaged in this criminal aggression. Lt. Col. Muhammad said that the missiles of aggression damaged water and sewage networks, telephone lines, and electrical grids.

The Civil Defense official told AL-JUMHURIYAH that an enemy missile fell on al-Haswah area, north of Abu Gharib, but, praise be to God, it did not explode.

Editorials Discuss U.S. 'Crimes', Travel Advisory

JN0107111193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—[passage indistinct] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Mankind has never known such a state as the United States, in using double standards to view and deal with people. This is because the United States strongly adheres to what it, truly or falsely, regards as its own right, and shows readiness to annihilate others if they question this right.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: At the same time, the United States denies all the rights of others, including the right to existence, to self-defense, and to protect sovereignty and national independence. The paper explains: The impudent U.S. Government memorandum handed to Iraq's permanent UN representative irrefutably proves that the U.S. political mind is afflicted by double standards, twisted logic, and a unilateral perception of matters, in addition to being bogged down in crime and brutality in a manner never before seen by mankind.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The decisionmakers in Washington are responsible for the blood of civilian victims and martyrs. It may be true that the U.S. crimes against red Indians and other peoples were forgotten, but the U.S. crimes against Iraq, the Palestinian people, and the Bosnian Muslims will never be forgotten. The paper stresses that the conscience of 1 billion world Muslims has been shaken. They have been cornered in such a way that they are now convinced that the only way out is to take a firm and courageous position that will strongly defend honor, pan-Arabism, Islam, and human principles.

Referring to the U.S. advisory to its nationals to avoid travel abroad on the pretext of increased world hostility toward Americans, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The United States knows and acknowledges the increased world hostility toward it, which could reach the extent of an armed attack against any American abroad. The paper stresses that mankind views the U.S. policy as a policy which embodies the devil, evil, and degradation. It says: The U.S. executioners can strike here and there but can these U.S. rulers, afflicted by the illness of harming people, avoid the reactions of their direct victims or their relatives throughout the world? AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its conviction that Clinton and the director of his intelligence service will answer: No one in the world can guarantee that reactions by an individual or a group of people will not occur in many world countries. The paper says: From now on, the United States should realize that the weapon of flagrant aggression it uses will backfire against it. It adds: The United States should not forget the most important historical lesson—the U.S. leaders are weak because they have neither roots nor an honorable background.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that Clinton's statements and resounding phrases following the aggression have muddied the U.S. status, and that Clinton's accusations

against Iraq have become statements worthy of ridicule. It adds: The double standards flagrantly embodied in the U.S. and British policies have become both characteristic of these policies and a malicious way of dealing with the countries which adhere to their own options and refuse to bargain on their peoples' freedom and destiny.

Sermon Notes Martyrdom's Lessons, Urges Muslim Unity

JN0207114493

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic, in a linkup with Baghdad Republic of Iraq Kurdish Radio and Baghdad Television, at 0930 GMT on 2 July relays live from Martyrs Mosque in the Umm-al-Tubul neighborhood of Baghdad a Friday prayer sermon delivered by Shaykh 'Abdallah Husayn Hamdan.

The preacher begin his sermon with traditional praise to God and Prophet Muhammd. He notes Muslims are celebrating the martyrdom of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib, the third Shiite imam, highlighting the status of martyrs in Islam. The preacher says Muslims must learn lessons from the story of al-Husayn's martyrdom, such as love for the prophet's family and companions, as well as mercy.

The preacher says al-Husyan's martyrdom teaches glory. He says Muslims were honored and given glory by Islam. He says: "Let the rancorous West, Zionism, and their Arabic-speaking allies hear this: We are Muslims. We do not bow, submit, yield, or kneel to anyone but God Almighty. The missiles they fire on Baghdad will only strengthen our adherence to Islam, and will only increase our pride and glory for the sake of God, and for the sake of raising the banner of God is Great, the banner of No God But Allah, Muhammad is the Prophet of God."

The preacher says Muslims must learn from the martyrdom of al-Husayn that Muslims must face calamities and disasters in their lives. God tested his prophet with the calamities he was made to face, the preacher notes. He adds: "The hard lessons the Muslim goes through—in terms of hunger, fear, and shortages of funds, people, and fruits—will give Muslims strength and bolster their perseverance in the face of hardship. Gifts only come after calamities."

He asks Muslims to support their fellow Muslims everywhere. He says: "Does your religion allow the killing of innocent children while they sleep? Does it allow the demolition of houses on top of their owners? Do you agree to see the missiles of rancor fired from the countries of Muslims against Muslims in Iraq?" The preacher voices dissatisfaction with the deterioration in the feeling of solidarity among Muslims.

The preacher urges Muslims to stand up to injustice. He says: "If they hit Baghdad today, tomorrow they will hit Damascus, Rabat, and Amman, and then they will dare to hit Mecca and Medina," because Muslims are doing nothing.

Concluding his 27-minute sermon, the preacher implores God to have mercy on Prophet Muhammad, the martyrs, and all Muslims. He also beseeches God to curse Jews and alleviate the people's suffering, and to guide Saddam Husyan on the right path.

Note to Arab League Protests Airspace Violations

JN0107194793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (INA)—Iraq has lodged a protest with the Arab League's general secretariat about the facilities which the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers are continuing to give to the U.S., British, and French aircraft in their continual violations of Iraqi airspace, seriously threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said that these planes continued their violations of Iraqi airspace on 27 and 28 June and carried out 62 aggressive missions, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi representative's letter of protest was coupled with a list detailing these violations. He requested that the secretary general distribute the letter among the Arab states.

Ba'th, Jordanian Party Establish 'Struggle Relations'

JN0107152193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1153 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jul (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Jordanian People's Democratic Party have signed a working program to promote bilateral struggle relations.

The program stresses the two parties' eagerness to coordinate efforts and hold consultations during Arab and international symposia and conferences. It also encourages exchanging visits and delegations to ensure continued communication between the two parties. The program further urges support for the Arab Popular Forces Conference and pursuing efforts to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Opposition Reportedly Inflicts 'Heavy' Losses

LD0107221993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that opposition forces inflicted heavy losses on the Iraqi regime's forces during military operations carried out recently in southern Iraq. They stated that Iraqi opposition combatants killed or injured 120 men of the 'Ujbah Bin-Radwan battalion, including Colonel Tal'at, the battalion's commander, who was killed during the operations. His deputy, Colonel Faruq Afzal 'Abbas, was seriously

injured. The sources said that Iraqi opposition combatants destroyed many tanks and armored mechanized vehicles of the Iraqi regime's forces.

More on Attack, Clash With MKO

LD0107155393 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 1, IRNA—The Iraqi mujahidin in a recent operation attacked Bin-Radwan Division of the Ba'thist army, killing or wounding as many as 120 soldiers and wounding a division commander, Colonel Tal'at, an informed source told IRNA here Thursday [1 July].

The mujahidin also wounded a deputy commander, Colonel Faruq Fazel, and destroyed several tanks and armored personnel carriers.

In another recent operation, the mujahidin tracked down several members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq grouplet (MKO). In an armed confrontation that took place on Badreh Kout road, the Iraqi mujahidin killed six and wounded 10 MKO members.

Saddam Envoy Carries 'New Offer' to Kurdistan

PM0107134693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Iraqi Envoy to Kurdistan Carries New Offer From Saddam"]

[Text] Ankara—As the economic crisis in northern Iraq intensifies, giving rise to increasing fears of social disturbances and grave consequences, informed Kurdish sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that an envoy of President Saddam Husayn "has arrived or will arrive" in Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.

They added that the envoy, who is former Kurdish communist minister Mukarram Talabani, carries a "new offer" from Baghdad and that Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani are prepared to listen to him. In a statement published by THE WASHINGTON POST last week and reflecting the gravity of the economic crisis in Kurdistan, Barzani said: "We will either have to go back to being refugees in Iran and Turkey (a reference to more than 1 million Kurdish refugees in 1991) or surrender to Saddam Husayn."

The sources say that the irony is that the Kurds, who have since then [1991] managed to solve the refugee problem, hold free elections, and establish an administration for about 75 percent of Iraqi Kurdistan as a result of the protection from Saddam's regime provided by the Western allies headed by the United States, find themselves two years later in a position that compels them to turn to that same regime as a possible "savior" from the worst economic crisis facing them since the total economic blockade imposed by Baghdad.

Talabani and Barzani had, as part of the opposition's Iraqi National Congress delegation, begun a tour in March during which they jointly or separately visited the United States, several European states, Turkey, and some Arab states. According to a Kurdish source, they must now tell their people that the many promises of financial and economic aid made to them remain just promises and that, at best, a part of these promises will be fulfilled under a program for next winter.

'Satisfaction' With U.S. Document Reported

TA0207083693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 93 p A4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] At the request of the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave orders to issue a restrained reaction to the U.S. document noting Israel's disappointment with changes introduced in the original 12 May document.

Political elements in Jerusalem stressed yesterday that Israel is satisfied with the document, but if it expressed its satisfaction, the Palestinians would find it difficult to accept the document.

According to reports from Washington, the U.S. effort is now focusing on convincing the Palestinians to refrain from issuing a sweeping negative reply to the document prior to Dennis Ross' trip to the region. Political sources in Jerusalem said they believed the Palestinians had received several oral promises designed to reduce the risk of their slamming the door in the American emissary's face.

The following are the substantive changes introduced in the 12 May document:

—The sentence: "The two sides concur that the agreement reached between them on permanent status will constitute the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338" was extended by the words "including all their components." This formulation replaced "full implementation," which had been rejected by Israel. This does not constitute a substantial concession, because Resolution 338 states that all the components of Resolution 242 should be implemented. Rabin, however, is displeased with the term "implementation," which in his view implies advance consent to withdrawal from territories. The prime minister instructed the delegation to demand that the sentence read "negotiations on the basis of 242 and 338."

—The original document stipulated that all options for permanent arrangements will remain open and that the outcome of the permanent status negotiations will not be prejudiced or preempted by the interim arrangements.

The new draft states that each side may raise any issue, including Jerusalem, in the framework of the permanent status negotiations. The new draft further states that any reference to territorial jurisdiction elements made in the interim arrangement framework would not be prejudicial to the permanent status.

This clause reflects a U.S. attempt to allay the Palestinians' apprehension that Israel would use the Palestinians' consent to waive implementing autonomy in Jerusalem and the settlements as a precedent proclaiming that they would give up these elements in permanent status negotiations.

—Rabin's statements concerning Israel's readiness to include East Jerusalem Arabs in elections to the autonomy council as electors (not as delegates) are anchored in the document.

—The new document provides more extensive particulars of the self-government council's legislative powers and scope of authority, with Israel still retaining the veto right on primary legislation. The new document does not indicate a change in the U.S. position on the supervision of elections in the territories.

Political elements in Jerusalem said yesterday that Israel can tolerate all the proposed changes and that Ross' main effort will lie in persuading the Palestinians to renounce demands such as the demand that the closure be lifted, the situation in Jerusalem frozen, and autonomy applied to Jerusalem. According to the elements, this would be more easily achieved through a direct dialogue between Israel and the PLO or between the United States and the PLO.

Minister Yosi Sarid from Meretz said that the new document offers a good basis for progress. According to him, "a demand is made of Israel, but it is one which Israel can and should meet."

[A report by Amnon Barzilay on page 11 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 2 July adds: "Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday voiced the view that '"Israel can live with the American paper.' The proposals put forth in the paper had been anticipated, and they do not jeopardize Israeli interests, including Jerusalem's status as a united city governed by Israel. According to some Jerusalem sources, the American document is unimaginative, uninspired, and unsurprising."

[Barzilay further writes that in a telephone conversation yesterday, "Rabin and Peres agreed to keep the contents of the documents completely secret and to issue low-profile reactions to it. It was agreed that Rabin would be the first to react." He adds: "After the document was examined, the prevalent view in Israel was that the Americans have met the Palestinians halfway on some of the clauses, but their stands on substantive issues remain unchanged."]

Peres: U.S. Draft Document Lacks 'Great Promise'

TA0107173993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Disappointment over the new American version also came from Foreign Minister Peres, addressing the Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem.

[Begin Peres recording] I read the paper with a sense of anticlimax, because we got another paper on 12 May, and in that paper it was suggested by the United States that the two parties, the Palestinians and us, announce

an agreed conclusion. Now, instead of an agreed conclusion, suggested by the United States, we have an American draft. Drafted with great talent but not with great promise. And we know, deep in our hearts, that with all the goodwill of the United States—that we appreciate highly and deeply—America cannot replace the Palestinians and America cannot replace the Israelis. America can serve in bridging over the gap between us. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Jerusalem Issue, U.S., Closure

TA0107172493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jul 93 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent at the Foreign Ministry on 29 June]

[Excerpt] [AL-NAHAR] Mr. Peres, do you believe that adopting a firm categorical stance on Jerusalem serves the peace process? At the Madrid Conference, the Palestinians agreed that the issue of Jerusalem be discussed in the "final stage" of negotiations. Why is Israel backing down and telling the Palestinians that Jerusalem is not negotiable?

[Peres] When we say that the Jerusalem issue will be discussed in the final stage, that there is no need to discuss it now, and that this clause (Jerusalem) should be attached, there is one exception. There is an acute problem concerning the issue of Jerusalem. That is the right of the Palestinians to hope for the impossible by participating in the vote for autonomy. I believe that this clause should be discussed along with the permanent status of the city. It should be addressed in the final stages of negotiations.

[AL-NAHAR] When you say that this issue will be addressed in the final stages of negotiations, this differs from what the Israeli Government has been saying over the past few months. It has said that the issue of Jerusalem should not be raised, otherwise....

[Peres] Jerusalem has been placed on the autonomy agenda. We have to be clear and say: We are now addressing autonomy. When we talk about autonomy, the Jerusalem issue should not be raised. The only subject that can be raised in relation to the issue of Jerusalem is the Palestinians' right to vote.

[AL-NAHAR] The Arabs and the Palestinians have been accused of waiting for the Americans to impose a solution. Apparently, the Israeli Government is also expecting the Americans to produce a miracle.

[Peres] I do not believe that you can impose a solution in place of the talks, and I do not think that the Americans can impose a solution on us or on the Palestinians. The talks under way now aim at reaching a compromise and preventing the imposition of solutions. This talk is unreasonable. Both sides should try to seek a compromise. Despite everything, the Americans cannot replace the Palestinians or Israelis. The best that they can do is mediate between the two sides, not be biased in favor of one party, or impose a solution on the other. The aim is to create common ground between the two sides. This is the nature of negotiations.

[AL-NAHAR] It seems that neither the Palestinian nor the Israeli leadership wishes to make difficult decisions. They want the Americans to impose a solution that would make it easier for them to face their peoples.

[Peres] No. This will not make it easier either for us or the Palestinians. I believe that the mission of negotiations is leadership. In modern times, the leader is elected by yesterday's voters, but he must represent tomorrow's voters. He should be elected by those who have the right to vote. I do not believe that a U.S. command will help change the situation. On the contrary, it might have a negative effect. People do not like any sort of pressure imposed on them.

[AL-NAHAR] It was reported that you said that the closure of the territories was badly timed and that it was causing economic losses to Palestinians and Israelis. Do you believe that this closure will help the parties adopt decisions that might advance the peace process?

[Peres] The closure had a psychological effect because it showed that the Palestinians had more of a problem than the Israelis: To live by the national wish of separation and to work together economically—that is, the two groups of people becoming separated nationally and politically, but the economy of both groups of people working together for the benefit of both. As you know, the territories were closed for security reasons. I have said, however, that we should be wary of tightening the grip on the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip because we are responsible for their lives.

Security permits have been issued for some 50,000 Palestinians to work in Israel. In the past, about 140,000 Palestinians worked in Israel. We want to issue more permits. Job opportunities for 20,000 have been created in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We have to create job opportunities for about another 70,000. We want to see the Palestinians in the territories economically stable so that they may live with dignity and be able to provide food for their children.

[AL-NAHAR] Can it be said that the "siege" is a step toward a complete separation from the occupied territories?

[Peres] There were reasons for imposing the siege—security reasons. If, however, this has created a new psychological situation, I welcome that.

[AL-NAHAR] That means you welcome something after it has been done.

[Peres] I have said that I prefer a national separation with economic cooperation as a solution. All peoples have the right to maintain their language and existence.

but all peoples must work to create a joint economy and a situation whereby people can move freely and raise their standard of living.

[AL-NAHAR] Shamir started a process that might reduce the role of the Israeli foreign minister. He bypassed David Levi and personally attended the Madrid Conference. Do you not believe that Rabin is pursuing the same course began by Shamir by issuing instructions to the negotiating team, keeping the cards close to his chest, and not informing others about them?

[Peres] No. Actually, this is not how things are between me and Rabin. The bilateral talks are conducted under his direction and with my participation. The multilateral talks are conducted under my direction and with his participation. This requires us to work together in the bilateral and multilateral talks. He retains the leading role in the bilateral talks, and I retain the leading role in the multilateral talks. Now, the multilaterals have begun to epitomize immense work and success. We have five groups. So far, we have held three rounds. The last round was very successful and was attended by representatives from 12 Arab states, in addition to the Palestinian delegation. We are addressing important issues, such as the economy, and sensitive issues, such as the refugee problem and arms control. If everything works out fine, we will move from the level of seminars to that of useful studies on the work and development of water, the environment, and arms control. The Palestinians, as well as the other Arab states, are cooperating in this field. This is a whole new ball game.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you believe that this government can make hard decisions for the sake of peace? As far as most Palestinians are concerned, it seems that this government is taking one step forward and two steps back and has no specific agenda or a clear position on the issues.

[Peres] In order to give you a good answer, I believe that now we are closer to peace than ever before. Despite everything that is taking place in Washington, I believe that we are very close to achieving a breakthrough, especially with the Palestinians. I believe that the Palestinians have begun to listen to the Israelis and have begun to realize that a future solution to the Palestinian problem actually depends on the Israelis and the Palestinians more than the U.S. position and those of the Arab states. We have to work together more closely in order to solve the problems of the parties concerned. I really believe that we are very close to reaching an understanding. I do not accept your concept that we are taking two steps backward. For example, on the issue of settlements we have not gone backward. On the contrary, we have taken several additional steps. We have stopped financial aid to settlements outside the Green Line.

[AL-NAHAR] What about settlements in the Golan Heights? They have been provided with financial aid.

[Peres] No. Only to existing settlements. We have not established any additional settlements in the Golan Heights.

[AL-NAHAR] But there was talk about the beginning of construction in settlements that has to be stopped?

[Peres] We have not set up any new settlements, but there are some 20,000 housing starts. We will finish those, but we have transferred a great deal of the budget to within the Green Line.

[AL-NAHAR] Mr. Peres, it is common knowledge that you are conducting talks with a Palestinian delegation that receives its instructions from the PLO leadership. Why don't you take a shortcut and negotiate with the PLO leadership?

[Peres] If the situation is as you describe it, then what kind of shortcut do you want? So, everything is alright.

[AL-NAHAR] Why not hold a meeting between Mr. Rabin and Mr. 'Arafat?

[Peres] There is a Palestinian delegation that is conducting the talks. Do you only want to provoke people? Why do you want this? Everything is arranged and agreed on.

[AL-NAHAR] Some say, Why waste time on the dialogue of functionaries? Instead of wasting time on issues, we need leaders to resolve them. Let a meeting be held to solve the problem entirely, because it is difficult there.

[Peres] If the functionaries are unable to agree on something, it will be possible to resort to the leaders. But if the leaders do not agree, whom will we approach? Give the functionaries a chance to reach what has to be reached.

[AL-NAHAR] There are two views on political action. The first one says: Let the functionaries do the work. The other says: The leaders have to untie the knot; why waste time?

[Peres] There are things that must be implemented gradually. Today there is a delegation that has been agreed on. The situation is difficult. The difficulty is that there is no elected leadership on the Palestinian side. There is an armed opposition and an opposing majority. This situation is difficult as it is. Therefore, we have to find a pragmatic solution. If there had been an elected Palestinian leadership, we would have welcomed that. It is not we who will choose such a leadership. Do you want me to choose the Palestinian leadership? We agreed on such a pragmatic delegation. We are ready to negotiate with every elected leadership.

[AL-NAHAR] All the time we hear you talk about the need to build mutual confidence and embark on joint action, but the government of which you are a member, Mr. Peres, carried out a dreadful step. It implemented the "mass transfer" of 415 Palestinian residents. The policy of demolishing houses as well as that of street construction is continuing. This means the confiscation of more Arab land. How do these two things tally?

[Peres] The deportation step was taken against those who instigated to kill. There was no transfer operation at all.

The deportees can return after one year to their homeland and homes, namely, within several months. They are refusing to return, unless they return together. I do not see this as a big problem, only punishment.

[AL-NAHAR] If this government continues to procrastinate on the issue of peace, can we expect Shim'on Peres to do what Moshe Dayan did when he resigned from Begin's government in protest against the attempt to foil the Camp David accords in relation to the Palestinian problem?

[Peres] Peres does not have to resign, because Peres is convinced that the peace process is moving in the right direction. Everyone will be taken by surprise in a very short time with the results of the current efforts.

[AL-NAHAR] Do you expect the Likud to return to power if the talks fail?

[Peres] I do not indulge in speculation, especially of this kind. I work in order to succeed, not to fail. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Explains Stands on Peace Talks, Iraq

JN0107170593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali today received in his office a delegation representing some parliamentary and party figures in Jordan. They handed him a memorandum on their views concerning the peace march, the stand on the embargo imposed on Iraq, the recent U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, and their views on Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

Al-Majali emphasized to them Jordan's firm principles on the Palestinian cause and the peace march in the region. He pointed out that since the Madrid conference, Jordan has insisted on demands that are connected with the Jordanian track. These demands are based on rights approved by the United Nations and they will be implemented on the ground, he said, adding that an understanding about these rights and the need to restore them has been reached.

Concerning the Palestinian track, al-Majali affirmed Jordan's full support for the Palestinian brothers and its backing for their efforts through coordination with the PLO and the Arab brothers involved in the peace process so that peace will not be reached unless the legitimate rights of the Palestinian on their soil are restored and all the occupied Arab territories have been regained. He said that as a result, progress has been realized toward a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

On the siege imposed on Iraq and the recent attack on Baghdad, al-Majali pointed out that Jordan has always been committed to the UN resolutions based on the principle that as a UN member its abidance by these resolutions affirms the Kingdom's political credibility in terms of its relations with other states, and preserves rights whose protection and implementation are UN duties.

Concerning the suffering of the Iraqi people, al-Majali said that Jordan views the Iraqi people in the same way it views the one Arab nation and people in the entire Arab homeland. We do not have to prove our national and pan-Arab stands to anyone, he said adding that everyone, far and near, testifies to the sincerity and nobleness of these stands. He said: "We also are suffering from the blockade imposed on Iraq because of the harassment of ships in the Red Sea on their way to al-'Aqabah."

Al-Majali stressed that Jordan always believes that the language of dialogue and understanding and not the use of force is the best means of solving problems. He said: "Our real strength and steadfastness hinges on maintaining national cohesion and unity, which is the base from which we move to reach the shores of safety under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, and to bypass this disturbing and difficult phase through which the world, particularly this region, is passing."

The meeting was attended by Minister of State Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, and Interior Minister Salamah Hammad.

Comments on Arab Ties

JN0207094593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jul 93 p 22

[Text] Al-Karak—Deputizing for His Majesty King Husayn, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali patronized the graduation of the fourth class of the civilian wing of Mu'tah University. Addressing the 565 graduates, the prime minister said:

Despite the siege, the injustice, and the misunderstanding from which it suffers, Jordan stands on the side of the honest sons of its nation and supports them. For this, it endures great burdens. At the top of those honest sons are our relatives in Palestine and the people of lofty Iraq, our depth and our brother. We did not disappoint an Arab defending his right, honor, or dignity. We did not accept partitioning an Arab land or relinquishing an iota of Arab soil, even as the number of the nation's victims increases and Arabs and non-Arabs make instigations against it. Therefore, nobody has the right to compete with us in this homeland. We are advocates of the nation's unity, independence, and control over its resources and wealth. We call for ending starvation and the imposed siege. We stand against the harm and aggression of strong parties against it, as well as against these parties' attempts to control its potentials in order to make it weak and backward.

Dr. al-Majali added: Before and after this, we call for the nation's complete move to democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights in preparation for the coming state that will embody the aspirations of its sons and the views of its generations regarding its future and position as a nation that has its own history, greatness, and glorious message.

Addressing the graduates, the prime minister said: I convey to you the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn, the guardian and leader of education, who has always been concerned to make Mu'tah a sword, book, and banner. At the beginning of the first confrontation, the army of the nation carried the Koran and the sword to defend the weak and oppressed people. The nation's banner remained high in the hands of Ja'far [commander in Islamic history] as it is high today in the hands of King Husayn and his soldiers, the bearers of the great Arab revolt message.

The prime minister added: King Husayn returned in a good health, praise be to God. He was there, in the West, defending—just like his ancestors—the Arab and Islamic causes as well as the interests of the dear homeland. King Husayn is aware that the absence of a unified Arab stand is one of the main factors of the nation's tragedies.

Addressing the graduates, al-Majali said: You are renewing the stands of your first ancestors who carried to the world the faith and firm will to build glory and to

spread the message of Islam to worshipers of God throughout the world. Your university has provided you with the weapon of knowledge and science to face life. Proceed with your heads high in the sky. The future is yours, O soldiers of Husayn who is proud of you.

Deputy Attacks Government 'Change' of Stance on Iraq

JN0107191093 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 30 Jun 93 pp 10, 11

[Article by Layth Shubaylat, member of the House of Representatives: "The Indirect Conspiracy of 'National' Forces Against Iraq"]

[Text] Prophet Muhammad uttered the truth when he said: "A faction of my nation shall continue to uphold the truth, not swayed by those who differ with them, until God eventually prevails."

We in Jordan took pride in our stand toward Iraq during that nation's predicament. However, the official stand began to change before the beginning of hostilities, by complying with the criminal Security Council resolutions imposing an embargo against Iraq.

We were vehemently criticized when we warned of the danger of accepting this embargo. Pragmatists and officials used to reply to us strongly, accusing us of being unfair toward Jordan and its stands, under the pretext that Jordan was overlooking smuggling into Iraq. Our doubts were confirmed when the government began to strictly enforce the embargo, to the extent that our compliance with the embargo exceeded what was demanded by the United Nations, in conformity with U.S. specifications. Even smuggling was turned into an illegal way of getting rich by a gang of officials and some wealthy Arabs.

Our policy was even criticized by some Western officials, not out of fear for Iraq's interests but for commercial gains. A Western trade minister visited Jordan a few months ago and met at Parliament with some colleagues and with the minister of industry and trade. The Western minister, prompted by concern for his country's trade interests, told our minister: "You are enforcing an embargo stricter than that desired by the United Nations."

Enforcing the embargo practically meant sounding out the views of political, mass, nationalist, and Islamic organizations to gauge their opposition to a policy of submission to the United States. These organization still go to Iraq twice a year. The Islamists go in winter; the pan-Arabists and nationalists in summer. They enjoy Iraq's generous hospitality and eat the best food, while the Iraqis are starving—only to issue strong statements later observed by none of them.

These organizations have remained silent, even subscribed to the official stance, by accusing those who urge lifting the Jordanian blockade on Iraq of being unfair, casting doubts and sowing discord. The United States meanwhile enjoyed this "national" stand, and thus increased pressure on Jordan. Consequently, the most hostile stands were taken toward Iraq and the nation, without there being absolute secrecy about it, as a prelude to changing the declared policy. All national forces know that joint military exercises are conducted every year between Jordan and the American and British enemies in the desert along Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula. All these forces, however, remained silent in the first year, except for a few individual voices issuing a statement condemning these exercises.

In the second year, some organizations went no further than offering political lip service. They issued statements denouncing these exercises, but failed to do undertake any serious move to resist this policy. Thus, the United States felt more relaxed and thought that the time had come for it to move without any restraints.

Then, the United States bombed Baghdad for the first time after the war. It bombed the al-Rashid hotel, where the popular Islamic conference was being held, thus declaring that it was bombing the entire Islamic nation. Most Islamic states, including Jordan, were even reluctant to denounce the raid. All that was done in reaction was that statements were issued regretting what they called the resort to force to "solve the dispute." Practically, the national forces kept silent. In fact, most of them felt embarrassed. Moreover, they criticized those who raised the slogan "lift the official Jordanian blockade imposed on Iraq." These organizations refrained from adopting the slogan. To avoid embarrassment, some of their leaders were satisfied with signing a statement after thousands of citizens throughout the country signed it. Some even claimed that the statement was intended to serve Iran. The curve of the defeatist positions hit rock bottom when the House of Representatives failed to pass a draft resolution banning the boycott of any Arab country. Although the draft resolution was signed by 40 deputies, who could have changed the Constitution if they so wished, the draft resolution failed to win the required votes after the government frowned upon it.

How can we be surprised, then, by Jordan's statements about its dissatisfaction with Iraq and its leadership and that Jordan has never been in full agreement with those who led a bloody coup against the Arab Hashemite Union in 1958? Is this a confession that Jordan was never been sincere in its absolute support for Iraq during the first Gulf war or when it encouraged Iraq to "defend the eastern flank of the Arab nation." Does this mean that Iraq defended the "flank" of a nation whose ruling regimes have destroyed it from within? Hundreds of thousands of Muslims on both sides were killed and many times this number disfigured. The Iraqi people sacrificed its best children to defend the "flank" of the Arab nation. Meanwhile, the Arab states that supported Iraq and those that did not support it played an equal part in demolishing the last stones of the Arab house and handing it to the United States and Israel. Thus, the

"Arab" slogan turned: Yes, for lifting the boycott of "sisterly Israel," and no for lifting the boycott of the "vicious Iraqi enemy." Other slogans read: Yes, for meetings with senior Arab officials with the Jews in spite of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees who have been stepped over by the Arabs; and no for meetings between "Arab" leaders and the Arab Iraqi leadership. Those Arabs who have been so alienated that they consider George Bush comparable to strugglers Sa'd Zaghlul and 'Umar al-Mukhtar, and agree that Arab people be bombarded on charges of having dreamt to attack the enemy of the Arab nation, George Bush, should not consider themselves Arabs, but Hebrews so that they can place themselves in their true cultural and historical place.

Who can now dispel the suspicions surrounding the [Jordan-initiated] Arab Center for Democracy and Human Rights? Doubts have been cast on the Center's real aims because it includes members of the Iraqi opposition. This a prelude to escalating the anti-Iraq campaign and adopting the stand of the Iraqi opposition, which is a protege of the United States. They claim that Iraq's main problem is the absence of democracy. If they want a democracy like ours, which condones the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and delivers its country to the hands of the IMF usurers, then to hell with this democracy.

This is not a democracy that will realize the sacred principles of the nation but a democracy that subjects these unchanging principles to opinions, making treason a matter of opinion deserving consideration. These same people at one time considered dictatorship in Iraq necessary to realize victory in the first Gulf war alleging that had the regime in Iraq been democratic, Iraq would not have withstood the Iranian pressure.

By its recent criminal attack on Baghdad, the United States declared a divorce between Iraq and Jordan after a period of estrangement between the two lovers. The American guardian of the Arabs chose to humiliate us and our government by attacking Baghdad while the head of our country was in the United States. This came after the United States tried to extract from our government all the moves it had wanted, beginning with abandoning Iraq and moving closer to the Iraqi opposition, and ending with the U.S. project of one-man, one-vote [in the upcoming Jordanian elections]. We will be very pleased indeed if the government issues a serious denial of what we are saying. We would rather be called liars and have our nation saved than tell the truth and have our nation doomed. O God, we beg to dissociate ourselves from what these people are doing to Iraq of our lord 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib and the Abbasids and we bow our heads in shame before every Iraqi man and woman.

The nationalist, Islamic, and pan-Arab forces are now busy preserving our newly born democracy which is the offspring of the concubine and not the son of a free man and a free woman. Down with the Arab nation and the principles of its immortal Islamic message and long live our democracy.

U.S. Formula for Palestinian Self-Rule Anticipated

JN0107125593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jul 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "On The Draft Declaration Of Principles"]

[Text] After a long period of waiting and hesitation which was about to ruin the bilateral talks that have been going on in Washington for some 20 months now, it appears that the U.S. Administration has begun to move from the wait-and-see position, which was a cause for concern and doubt by the negotiation teams, to a position that may be considered more harmonious with the declared U.S. commitment to play the role of full partner in the peace process.

Although the draft declaration of principles on the transitional period arrangements for the Palestinian self-rule have not yet been published, and despite the fact that the parties concerned have not yet said their final word on this issue, which obstructed the negotiations for a long time, the U.S. move can be viewed as a positive step in the right direction, especially since that draft was not rejected like the previous U.S. memorandum which was coordinated in advance with the Israelis.

Regardless of what this document contains, and regardless of all the amendments that may be introduced to the original text, the fact that the U.S. Administration has taken this initiative, and at this time in particular, will be viewed as a new, more effective beginning by President Clinton's administration through which it can open a direct, substantive discussion with the parties concerned over all practical aspects related to the Palestinian transitional period.

Therefore, we hope that with the growing effectiveness of the U.S. role, which is indispensable for the progress of the peace process, President Clinton's administration will continue this satisfactory trend, and that it will not lose its determination to continue with such a complicated task when it faces the wall of Israeli evasion, which may be Rabin government's indirect way of weakening this U.S. effectiveness.

Thus, the U.S. declaration of principles may be viewed as an important, positive result of 10 rounds of Arab-Israeli negotiations. The most important aspect of this statement, whose details have not yet been made public, is represented in the achievement of some U.S. commitment to play a full partner role in the negotiations. This declaration may also provide a new driving force, which the bilateral talks have been lacking for many months now.

Formula Presented, Viewed

JN0207090793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Jul 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The U.S. Formula in the Balance"]

[Text] At last, the U.S. Administration presented its formula on self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories. It gave copies of this formula to the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

It is noteworthy that the U.S. Administration chose the end of the 10th round of negotiations, which ended without any progress, to present its formula. It did so to ensure that the next round can be held without obstacles and without conditions by any party. Who knows? The U.S. Administration may bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints in order to activate the negotiations, which are still in crisis and may be paralyzed.

The Israeli prime minister's statement, which rejected negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, has raised fears and skepticism in the Palestinian delegation about Israel's seriousness and its willingness to realize a just peace that secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and the restoration of their occupied territories, topped by holy Jerusalem.

There are also differences between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations on the geographic jurisdiction, the right to return, family reunification, nationality, and other issues for which just solutions, according to the resolutions of international legitimacy, should be reached.

If the U.S. formula contains successful solutions for these differences, then the peace process will take long strides ahead. Otherwise, the United States will wipe out the peace process and abort its own initiative.

If the U.S. Administration intends to render the negotiations successful, reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, it does not need much time and effort. What is important is that the U.S. Administration should force the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 in accordance with the letters of assurances and invitation, and avoid dividing the solutions on all tracks.

What is important is that the U.S. Administration should force Israel to accept the implementations of the resolutions of the international legitimacy, nothing more, nothing less. The Arabs do not want anything more.

Anyhow, the U.S. Administration, which is the sponsor of the peace process, should not waste this available opportunity for peace since it is the party that will shoulder the responsibility for any failure the negotiations may face.

The Palestinian delegation will carefully, attentively, and accurately study the U.S. formula on self-rule, and will see how serious the U.S. Administration is, and how far it is concerned with the continuation and success of the negotiations.

Buwayz Receives Text of Latest Israeli Proposal

NC0207074093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The 10th round of the bilateral talks ended yesterday with a new Israeli proposal, which was conveyed to the Lebanese foreign ministry by head of the negotiating delegation Ambassador Suhayl Shammas last night.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he received the text of the new Israeli proposal but did not want to disclose it. Buwayz also received a phone call from Ambassador Shammas, who briefed him on the progress of the talks.

Comments on Military Committee

NC0207074193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz confirmed that yesterday evening he received a paper containing a new proposal from the Israeli side.

In an interview with our radio, he said the formation of a military committee [with Israel] is linked to Israel's clear and explicit commitment to implementing Resolution 425. He added: When this happens there will be justification to form such a committee, whose task will be to implement this resolution on the ground.

He said the Israeli paper needs extensive study before he can comment on it.

Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut From Damascus

NC0107063993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus aboard his private plane at 2130 today. In Damascus, al-Hariri met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and reviewed the situation. They also assessed the course of the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington and the stances of the Arab parties. The talks were completed at a dinner held by Khaddam and attended by Syrian officials.

U.S., Russian Envoys Convey Invitation to Talks

NC0207101793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker at 1000 today. Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev joined the meeting at 1100.

Our correspondent learned that the purpose of the meeting was to convey to Lebanon an invitation to participate in the multilateral talks in Moscow on 7 July.

Israel Reinforces Positions in Southern Areas

NC0207085793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces have resumed their attacks on the liberated areas in the south. Reports from the south have indicated that Israeli forces have dispatched mechanized and armored troops to reinforce the border militia's [South Lebanese Army, SLA] positions.

According to the same reports, Merkava and Flail tanks were spotted on the Zummarayya-Zaghlah combat line. The Israelis deployed heavy 175-mm artillery on the al-Majidiyah crossing. Meanwhile, Israeli armored activities were monitored on the ridges of (Saddanah), south of Shab'a.

The reports said that a military delegation comprising ranking Israeli occupation commanders, including the commander of the northern sector, toured the Israeli and SLA positions in the eastern sector, particularly positions on the Kawkaba-Zaghlah combat line. The delegation met with the Israeli and SLA officers in this sector and discussed the military situation following operations recently carried out by the Islamic Resistance.

Overnight Shelling Reported

NC0207082693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that the Zionist enemy artillery shelled the outskirts of Mlikh and al-Luwayzah and the hills of Mlita, Jabal Safi, and Jabal al-Rayhan in Iqlim al-Tuffah last night. The shelling, which originated from the enemy positions in al-Zaffatah, was accompanied by raking with large- and medium-caliber machine guns.

Amal Movement Claims Attack on SLA Post

NC0207121293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] According to security sources in the south, two Katyusha rockets were fired at the town of Rshaf in the occupied border strip last night without causing casualties.

The Amal Movement announced that one of its units last night attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Rshaf and clashed for 15 minutes with the post's personnel using machine guns and rockets. The movement said it captured Hasan 'Ali Jabir, a member of the SLA.

The SLA retaliated by shelling the town of Bayt Yahun near the border strip. No casualties were reported.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Turkish President

JN0107132093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. The message deals with bilateral relations and developments in the region.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the message when he received Turkish Ambassador to Damascus Ugur Ziya today.

Al-Shar' Receives UNRWA Commissioner General

JN0107080593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Ilter Turkmen, commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA]. Tahir al-Husami, head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations and Conferences Department, and Robert Hopkins, director of UNRWA's Damascus office, also attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on the services UNRWA offers to the Palestinian refugees and the tragic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

UNRWA's commissioner general voiced appreciation of Syria's significant contributions to help the brother Palestinian refugees.

Papers Criticize Israeli Positions at Peace Talks

JN0107094893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The 10 Rounds and the One Result," AL-BA'TH's editorial discusses the Middle East peace talks given the outcome of the 10th and other rounds.

AL-BA'TH says: The 10th round is going with the wind, and no serious step has been taken toward the aspired just and comprehensive peace. In this round, Israel has reiterated its rejection of the principle of withdrawal, of recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, and of holding talks emanating from the bases of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has tried to impose on both the Arab parties and the cosponsor of the peace process its own interpretation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Acceptance of the Israeli viewpoint means imposing an Israeli formula on everyone.

After discussing the essence of the Israeli formula, which calls for relinquishing both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, as well as forcing the international community to reward the aggressor and punish the victim, AL-BA'TH says that the Arabs will continue to reject this Israeli logic which violates all the principles and charters of international legitimacy.

Wondering about the role of the United States, the cosponsor and full partner in the peace process, in supporting this process, AL- BA'TH says: It is naive to believe that the United States cannot convince the Israeli rulers to stop their subversive role in the peace process. This is because the nature and history of U.S.-Israeli relations, the record of U.S. policy in the region and Israel's full reliance on U.S. support and aid will all enable any U.S. administration to force Israel into fulfilling the necessary commitments, if the peace process is to achieve its set objective.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs have carried out their duty toward the peace process. Likewise, the other parties should carry out their duties, so this process can remain alive. Moreover, the Arabs have dealt with the peace process positively, and are ready to move forward until their objectives are achieved. However, it would be wrong to believe that the Arabs are ready to capitulate to the Israeli demands, conditions, and dictates which violate and conflict with international legitimacy. The Arabs will never be ready to abandon their rights, territories, and prestige, regardless of their circumstances and situation, because to do so would mean eternal humiliation, shame, and disgrace.

AL-THAWRAH also discusses the 10th round of Middle East peace talks, which are about to end. The paper says that the Israelis see themselves as a party that is not interested in making any goodwill gesture toward achieving a breakthrough in these talks. It says that the Israelis do not want to commit themselves to any of the conditions required for peace, particularly with regard to the principle of full withdrawal.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Israelis have been so arrogant and intansigent that they have threatened to freeze the peace talks unless the Arabs stop their demands to regain Jerusalem and unless they also accept the Israeli's feeble partial solutions that have worked out in accordance with their ambitions and expansionist schemes.

AL-THAWRAH then discusses Israel's intransigent positions and malicious methods aimed to evade honoring the international resolutions. The paper says: The United States daily hears Rabin reiterating his insistence on maintaining the occupation of Jerusalem and his rejection of the principle of total withdrawal. The United States also stands idly before the security pretext Rabin is using to justify the continued occupation of Arab territories. The United States has not yet assumed its responsibility to refute these deceptive allegations nor has it adopted any serious position to make Israel

understand that peace is impossible while it adheres to these pretexts at a time when developments are proving that they are null, void, and illegitimate.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Naturally, the United States knows better than others that the statements on security by the Tel Aviv rulers are a big hoax designed to entrench their occupation of Arab territories and evade any commitment to full withdrawal from them. Therefore, the United States should convince these rulers that the method they are using is futile, and make them understand that only a just and comprehensive peace will provide security for everyone and promote safety and stability in the region. The absence of peace will not provide security to anyone. It will lead to further wars and catastrophes, the paper adds.

Increased U.S. Intervention in Talks Urged

JN3006102093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH explains that since the beginning of the 10th round of peace talks in Washington, Israel has not offered any positive proposals to help achieve peace in the region in the near future.

AL-THAWRAH says that the current U.S. Administration has made various promises and its diplomats have communicated assurances and guarantees to the concerned Arab parties to the effect that it will intervene to play the role of a full and effective partner in the talks. However, an atmosphere of failure continued to prevail and the talks remained captive to Israeli maneuvers, obstinacy, rejection of peace, and adherence to the gains of aggression and occupation.

AL-THAWRAH says that there is nothing to indicate that the stalled peace process can be salvaged or that tangible progress can be made in the remaining few days.

AL-THAWRAH explains that in response, Israel showed no readiness to implement relevant UN and UN Security Council resolutions, created obstacles, and set preconditions. The paper adds that what Israel offers and adheres to at the negotiating table is attempts to legitimize the occupation and impose the status quo.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Israeli negotiators again raised the issue of unilateral security and security arrangements as an independent issue away from the basic, essential issue, which is withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. In an exposed attempt to circumvent international legitimacy and impose conditions that cannot lead to peace, they also insisted on jumping to conclusions and ignoring the requirements and conditions of peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: In view of this, there must be international and U.S. intervention. Such intervention has become an urgent necessity dictated by responsibility and commitment toward international peace and saving the negotiations before they collapse. Israel should be made to understand by all means of pressure and persuasion that peace in accordance with its evasive understanding cannot be at the expense of Arab security and ignoring others' existence and rights. Historical inevitability says that occupation and aggression will not provide security and peace for Israel. Without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, the region will not taste security and the last chance for peace will be lost.

U.S. Accused of 'Duality' on International Issues

JN3006080493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] Today's issue of AL-BA'TH newspaper says that the so-called new world order has been the most conspicuous phenomenon in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Consequently, world policies have come under the unilateral control of a single axis, and the United States has begun practicing this role in a manner that suits its own interests and those of its friends, particularly Israel.

AL-BA'TH says that this is a questionable policy because it has adopted double standards from the outset regarding international issues. AL-BA'TH says that this duality actually harms the concept of the new order, which has not yet fully developed. The paper says that this duality has clearly manifested itself through the past and present U.S. Administrations' dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is considered one of the most serious international issues.

AL-BA'TH discusses the issue of human rights and raising it at international conferences. It says that at a time when the United States takes up this issue, human rights are being violated on a daily basis in the occupied Arab territories by the Zionist occupation forces through the most awful, indiscriminate practices, which spare no child, woman, or old person.

AL-BA'TH explains that when the issue of terrorism is raised and Washington begins to level charges, we find no one practicing daily terrorism against defenseless people more than Israel in the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH questions America's silence toward Israel's anti-peace stance and failure to put any pressure on it to force it to comply with international legitimacy and UN resolutions. This duality in dealing with hot issues, such as the situation in Bosnia and the occupied Arab territories, will not convince anybody of the credibility of the role of the single axis—the self-declared sponsor of the so-called new world order. That is unless it abandons the policy of double standards and applies international legitimacy on everyone without exception.

Afghanistan

* Dostam Said Considering Independent State in North

93P50223A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Excerpt] Media sources and reports have affirmed that Uzbek militias commander General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who split off from the formerly ruling Communist regime in Afghanistan, is considering announcing the establishment of an independent state in the Afghan north, since his forces control broad regions there. All-India Radio broadcast the news night before last. It stated that Dostam has opened consular offices for this state in the Central Asian republics, with whose leaders he enjoys a strong relationship due to shared traditions, language, and ethnicity.

Reliable Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH that Dostam returned a few days ago from a several-day visit to Washington, during which he met with U.S. officials subsequent to a meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, three weeks ago.

The same sources affirmed that the two sides discussed the question of announcing an independent state forming a buffer between Afghanistan, which the mojahedin control, and the Central Asian states, which are witnessing the growth of Islamic movements such as the rebirth movement in Tajikistan supported by the mojahedin government in Kabul.

Dostam is considered to have recently moved in the direction of India, which he also visited two weeks ago, in contrast to his former policy of moving closer to Pakistan, which is exerting all efforts to maintain the unity of Afghanistan so that its own lands do not face fragmentation and erosion. Meanwhile, its traditional enemy India is striving to divide Pakistan and weaken it.

In addition, independent Afghan sources in contact with the national movement headed by Dostam and coming from his stronghold in Mazar-i Sharif state that their belief is that Dostam is not strong enough to make foreign capitals believe in him. These sources told AL-HAYAH: "It will be difficult for him to bite off the Afghan north in view of the internal conflicts from which his movement suffers. This is also true in light of the growing influence of the Afghan parties that are hostile to him due to his support of the communist regime for several years in its war against them."

Observers note that the idea of the north's secession, which Dostam and the commanders of his militias are threatening, does not enjoy popular support in those areas and that the goal of this idea is to manipulate the mojahedin so that they do not leave him out of any settlement in the country.

Dostam felt humiliated and disappointed after he was completely left out of the power-sharing Jalalabad agreement that the mojahedin factions signed on 18 May. This closed the road for Dostam, who is trying to play on the mojahedin differences, and who also has tried to utilize this or that one's rejection of the government and widen the rifts of conflict between them.

The militia fighters effectively expressed their dislike of being cut out of the settlement when they blocked a convoy carrying members of the government two days ago on its way to the Dar-ol Aman Palace to participate in an official government meeting.

The Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, recently alluded to the participation of the militias in the current government when he said: "All groups and factions of the Afghan people will participate in the government." Observers believe his words to be an attempt to reconcile with Dostam. [passage omitted]

India

LTTE Infiltration of Tamil Nadu Government Denied

BK0107133493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] The Home Ministry has denied reports in a section of the press quoting the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, as saying that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and their sympathizers had infiltrated in the Tamil Nadu government. A Home Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that Mr. Chavan, while addressing the Consultative Committee meeting yesterday, had said that the escape of LTTE detainees from the state police custody indicates the penetration of LTTE in the state. This was even as central and state governments have succeeded in considerably curbing the activities of the outfit. Pointing out the difference between infiltration into the state of Tamil Nadu and infiltration into the state government of Tamil Nadu, the spokesman said that the reports are misleading.

Package for Speedy Use of Foreign Aid Announced

BK0207045493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] The government has announced a special package of measures for speedy utilization of external assistance and to improve project implementation. The measures include disintermediation by the central government for borrowing by public sector undertakings. A Finance Ministry spokesman said these organizations would be borrowing directly on terms mutually agreed upon between the borrower and the lender. It has also been agreed that all prospective disbursements to states would pass on the concessions received by the center on the aid

package. These measures were discussed at a special meeting in Paris yesterday prior to the formal meeting of the Aid India Consortium.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Border Talks With China

BK0107135593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Commentary by N.G. Chowdhury]

[Text] The India-China Joint Working Group talks concluded on 28 June 1993 on a happy note. The two sides agreed to adopt additional confidence-building measures to ensure peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control, open one more border point Shipkilah pass in Himachal Pradesh to boost bilateral trade, and pursue a step-by-step approach to resolve the boundary dispute. The fact that the talks stretched to four days instead of the two days originally scheduled demonstrates how keen both the most populous countries in the world, having different political systems, were to further strengthen their relations in the economic, social, and cultural fields. This is a step forward over the record of the previous five rounds of parleys of the Joint Working Group since its formation in 1988. These have been at best a mixed bag. While there has been some progress toward confidence-building measures, the main thorny issue still remains to be resolved. The Chinese side has not so far agreed to vacate the Indian territory it occupied in 1962.

Currently, the four-day talks, which were held in a spirit of accommodation and adjustment and free from acrimony and polemics, have been fruitful in more than one way. The foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit, who led the Indian side to the talks, informed the Joint Working Group that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao would visit China in the first week of September this year. In turn, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, and Politburo member Zhu Rongji will visit India in the course of next year. This is by no means a mean achievement.

Another salient feature of the agreement is that both sides have agreed on step-by-step withdrawal of troops following discussions at the level of army commanders. This is a positive step in as much as it will lead to a tension and incident free border where troops of the two countries need not stay in readiness and the red alert. This may be followed by discussions on official levels in the defense ministries. It is indeed heartening to note that the measures already agreed in this regard, including meetings between military personnel at Bum La Pass in the eastern sector and (Spangor Gap) in the western Sector, have proved extremely useful in averting troop confrontations of the two sides. However, progress on this front has been slow and may continue to be slow till the issue has been sorted out at the political level and final seal is put during Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Beijing in Septamber.

The agreement on economic front will certainly benefit both sides. Although the actual border trade was resumed in July 1992 after three decades of the deadlock across the Lipu Lake Pass, the quantum of trade has been negligible. Indian exports to China were about 1,160 million [rupees] and imports approximately 520 million. But with the opening of the additional border point at Shipkillah pass, modalities for which will be worked out shortly, the two-way trade will get a further fillip. The Chinese side has been wanting Natu La to be opened as a trade point which has so far been confined to exchanging mail. Trade through Natu La, if agreeed to, will give the Chinese goods access to Calcutta port for export to third countries.

Though the talks were all-pervading and satisfying with the steady and perceptible improvement in bilateral ties, there were areas of differences which may be thrashed out at the next meeting of the Joint Working Group in Beijing early next year. These include Chinese arms supply to Pakistan, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], and activities of Dalai Lama and the Tibetan refugees in India. On India's concern on supply of Silkworm missiles to Pakistan, the Chinese assured that only a small quantity had been supplied and that the Chinese arms sale policy was not against the third country. The Chinese asserted that China has equally friendly relations with India. Differences on NPT will continue since China is signatory and India is not, and China possesses nuclear weapons. [Words indistincts] the differences on boundary dispute still remain to be ironed out. At the last meeting of the Joint Working Group held in Beijing, the Chinese side had suggested boundary adjustments on the basis of mutual accommodation. But at the sixth and last meeting, they reiterated the position which is tantamount to India accepting the old Chinese claims in the eastern as well as western sectors. It was, thus, agreed that once the additional confidence-building measures get going, a better climate will emerge, thus paving the way for the mutual understanding on this subject. Nevertheless, the trend in the talks on the whole reveals that the atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion which, hitherto, eclipsed the talks is totally absent. Both are trusting each others' words more than ever before and this augurs well for further thaw in the ambit of relations between the two countries.

Rao Denies Meeting Stockbroker, Views Successes

BK0107130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has categorically denied that he ever met the stockbroker Harshad Mehta. Talking to newsmen in Nandial in Andhra Pradesh today, he said the Joint Parliamentary Committee is seized of the entire matter.

Replying to a question, he said that the country has achieved many successes during the last two years of his

government at the center, including restoration of peace in Punjab and Assam, and partial success in the valley of Kashmir.

The prime minister said that subsidy on fertilizers will be continued this year also. Earlier, the prime minister launched several development programs in Nandial.

New Army Chief Seeks Good Ties With Media

BK0207101493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The new chief of the army staff, General B.C. Joshi, said the Army and the media should cooperate with each and other for the welfare and progress of the country. Talking to newspersons soon after formally taking over as the Army chief in New Delhi, Gen. Joshi said the basis of relationship between the media and the army should be confidence and mutual trust. Earlier, Gen. B.C. Joshi assumed office as the 17th chief of the Army staff. In his special order of the day, Gen. Joshi said welfare of Army men and ex-servicemen will remain uppermost in his mind. Gen. B.C. Joshi was commissioned on 4 December 1954 in the armored corps after having been awarded the President's Gold Medal for standing first in the overall order of merit. He has held various important command and staff appointments and commanded an armored regiment during the 1971 Indo-Pak war in the Western sector.

Iran

Papers Condemn U.S. Raid on Baghdad, 'Feeble' UN

International Community Must Protest

NC0107183493 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 93 p 2

[Editorial: "New World Order, Made in the U.S.A."]

[Text] U.S. Navy ships in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf fired 23 Tomahawk missiles at the heart of the city of Baghdad.

The U.S. President, Bill Clinton, said at a television speech that he had ordered the cruise missile strike on Baghdad because of Iraq's role in the alleged assassination plot against the former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

This is not the first time the White House rulers have violated all international laws and regulations. Their record of repeated transgressions and violations of the international laws have by now become part of their imperialistic culture.

And the action of the leaders in London, who supported Clinton's decision without offering any legal justification and in total and blind obedience to Washington, did not really surprise anybody. They have been doing that all through the past decade.

The really relevant question is: When will the international community respond seriously to America's tyranny and international bullying?

No legal system in the world will endorse punishment of an accused before a fair trial is conducted, and no tribunal will permit any government to act as a self-styled executioner and wreak death and devastation on civilian residential areas in retaliation for an alleged assassination which has not taken place.

There is nothing to be said in support of Saddam Husayn. But the entire world knows by now that it was George Bush himself who decided to keep Saddam in power in the course of the Persian Gulf war and use him as a guinea pig for tests they needed to perform in connection with their so-called New World Order.

But the cruel tests that are being conducted on Saddam involve gross violation of the international laws, and the world community should rise in protest.

As a matter of fact, it is because of the weak policies adopted by the United Nations and its feeble Secretary General that gave Clinton and the other American leaders the free hand in the conduct of their international tyranny, and made it possible for them to announce to the world that they will strike first and then go to the international tribunal, that is, the United Nations and receive their reward.

Under such circumstances, could anyone really claim that the United Nations an the Security Council are not mere tools or toys?

Gulf States Must Cooperate

NC0207152993 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Jun 93 p 12

[Commentary by Shahrad Isna 'Ashri: "The Need for Change"]

[Text] Early yesterday morning, the world witnessed another event that disturbed world public opinion. Once again, the United States attacked Iraq on a chimerical pretext, a plan to assassinate George Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

In a televised address, Bill Clinton announced the news of the missile attack against Iraq and said: "With this attack, the United States wished to send a clear political message to Iraq."

John Major, the British prime minister, announced in a statement: "Britain believes that a clear response must be given to state-sponsored terrorism and all legitimate and correct means be used to deter terrorism."

The latest U.S. attack against Iraq took place in continuation of the U.S. policy of playing the role of the

gendarme and being a lever to exert pressure on countries that do not accept U.S. domination.

The United States attacked Iraq while the people of Somalia were also being massacred by the United States. These events are taking place in the name of claims to defend the new world order and within a framework where we see murder and aggression, dismemberment of countries, intervention in their internal affairs, and U.S. assertion of its overlordship in those countries.

The U.S. attack on Iraq took place within the U.S. new strategy in this region of "a dual control of Iran and Iraq." On the basis of this plan, the United States is seeking to exacerbate tension in the existing flashpoints of danger and power in the Persian Gulf in such a way so that it can consolidate its military presence there.

Meanwhile, cooperation and coordination among all the Persian Gulf countries in the region and their collective participation in ensuring the security of the region seems more necessary than ever before. Changes in most policies and pursuing a "coalition" policy may perhaps prove effective at this sensitive time in the history of the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Objectives Viewed

NC0107205293 Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 Jun 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "A Place to Stop"]

[Text] Where will the United States stop in the Persian Gulf? Was not such a situation expected right from the day that the Americans stationed their forces here on the pretext of protecting Kuwaiti tankers? Perhaps their pursuit of step-by-step tactics in their political and military policy may not seem logical today. What other answer or analyses do those circles—which thought that the United States would use the ploy of resorting to the United Nations and the Security Council in order to bestow a semblance of international legitimacy, at least ostensibly—have for yesterday's savage attack on Baghdad?

Without any preliminaries, general justification, or request to any internationally recognized authority, the United States rains missiles on a country thousands of kilometers away and then states that the country had intended to assassinate its former president, and that they took this step to defend their sovereignty. In common international parlance, one may well ask, was this unexpected from a belligerent government such as that of the United States?

What is interesting here is that Clinton won the elections by projecting himself as the symbol [preceding word in English] of a trend that denounced militarism in U.S. policy (as compared to other factions) and the force of his propaganda was that he would attend to U.S. domestic issues. Now he has adopted the course of warmongering. We can even state that the attention of the Democrats was not directed at issues regarding U.S. foreign policy, but that is what Mr. Clinton is doing today.

Even if the U.S. allegations regarding the Baghdad government's intention to assassinate Bush have any truth, should dozens of missiles—which can miss their targets by 50 km—have been unleashed at the densely populated capital of Iraq, something very likely to result in numerous civilian casualties? How is this U.S. conduct in keeping with the U.S. claims to defend human rights and of minority rights? How can this action be justified, only a few days after the convocation of the Vienna conference?

In truth, can the public opinion around the world or in a country like Iran —which for years has been under the savage aggression of the Baghdad regime—accept such belligerent and pugnacious behavior? Even the Iranian nation, which has tasted the bitterness of the Baghdad regime's bestial aggression and has sacrificed its best offspring, senses deceit and feels hatred in this act by the United States; therefore what would a nation that has no tangible experience regarding the Baghdad regime feel?

The Americans called for convening a UN Security Council session after the attack; this has further affirmed the lack of credibility of the United Nations in deciding, intervening in, and resolving international conflicts. First came the punishment, and then the court was convened to issue the verdict!

There is no doubt that the foremost and most urgent obligation of the independent countries of the region is to combat this approach and this precedent being set by the Americans. The Saddam regime's record cannot be a justification for these savage attacks. With all political might and propaganda we must hasten to combat this policy. We have no other recourse as the Americans will certainly not stop here.

Prayers Leader Criticizes UN Over Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD0207145793 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, the temporary leader of Tehran's Friday prayers, here today denounced the United Nations for refusing to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the issue is a solid evidence that disreputes the international community.

The ayatollah who was addressing a large group of worshippers at the compounds of Tehran University during Friday congregational prayers said the infamous decisions by the United Nations is sufficient proof of the fact that the organization is incapable of administering the international affairs.

He said the only personality that is able to run the affairs of the international human community is the imam of

our time, (the 12th imam of Shiite Muslims now held to be in occultation), for whose advent and for whose global rule the Islamic Republic is now paving the way.

The ayatollah also deplored the attack by a group of Wahhabi agents against mourning Shiites in Pakistan Thursdqy who were commemorating Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), the third imam of Shiite Muslims on the anniversary of his martyrdom. He called on the Pakistani Government to get rid of the Wahhabis once and for all in that country.

He also expressed his condolences to the Muslim people on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Dr. Mohammad Beheshti and 71 others who lost their lives at a bomb blast at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party on June 28, 1980, and also the shooting down by the U.S. Navy of an Iran Air plane on its way to Dubai in July 1988 that killed all the 290 passengers of the airplane and her crew. He said the shooting of the plane was another record in the long list of infamous acts undertaken by the United States.

The ayatollah devoted his first sermon to the topic of the uprising by Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and his struggles for reviving the true Islam and for the ideological reformation of Muslims.

He also recalled a statement by Imam Khomeyni on the religious significance of the month of Muharram and added that Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) attached special importance to congregatonal prayers and also to the duty of the individual to exhort other Muslims to do good. He said the idea should be promoted in the mosques throughout the nation.

Nepal

King Outlines Policies in Speech Opening Parliament

BK0107153193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 1 (AFP)—Nepal will maintain a non-aligned foreign policy and hopes to solve the Bhutanese refugee problem through diplomacy, King Birendra said in his throne speech opening both houses of parliament Thursday [1 July].

But observers noted that the king did not refer to anti-government unrest which saw as many as 25 people killed in clashes with police in the four days beginning last Friday. Rioting followed a communist protest against a report saying an incident in which two communists were killed was an accident. Their party said it was a murder conspiracy. The main communist party is planning a general strike for next week.

In his speech, the king said Nepal would work to maintain close ties with both India and China, adding that his recent visit to India and Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's official visit to Nepal had further helped strengthen the crucial bilateral relationship.

In the 20-minute speech, broadcast live over state radio and television, the Nepalese monarch outlined in broad terms his government's annual socio-economic, political and foreign policies to be pursued during the fiscal year beginning July 16.

"My government is committed to accelerate the pace of equitable economic development by strengthening democracy," the king said, and "Nepal's close relations with her immediate neighbours, India and China, will be further consolidated to mutual benefit." He said Nepal's participation at the recent U.N. international human rights conference in Vienna was "a testimony to Nepal's deep faith in human rights."

He also said he looked forward to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala's official visit to Israel and Finland further consolidating Nepal's relations with these countries.

King Birendra said Nepal would remain active in efforts to make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which groups six countries in the region, more effective.

Pakistan

Cabinet To Refer Punjab Proclamation to Supreme Court

BK0207023493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 93

[Text] The federal cabinet has decided to file a reference in the Supreme Court about the proclamation issued in light of the resolution passed by the joint session of parliament on 29 June. The decision was made in the larger interests of the country and the nation at a special session of the cabinet, with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in the chair, in Islamabad yesterday. The cabinet unanimously believed that the president's endorsement was not necessary for the implementation of the resolution passed under Article 234 of the Constitution by the joint session of parliament. However, since certain elements are trying to create a misconception in this regard, the cabinet decided to refer it to the highest court in the land. The cabinet will send a summary to the president in this regard under the relevant clauses of the Constitution, so that he can formally file a reference to the Supreme Court.

The cabinet took strong notice of the attempts by certain elements to disrupt law and order, spread lawlessness, and seriously harm national interests. The cabinet warned that all such illegal and unconstitutional activities will not be tolerated.

Troops Clash With India at Bugna Post

BK0107105193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad (PPI)—Several clashes have erupted between Pakistan and Indian army at Bugna Post, a few kilometres away from Athmuqam. These clashes started at a time when Indian army units fired a rocket on civilian population and opened fire with machine guns.

A woman and her child travelling in a jeep were badly injured in this attack.

Paper Views Rao Statement on U.S. Mediator Role

BK0107105793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US Mediation"]

[Text] Mr Narasimha Rao has said the US could play a role in easing tensions between his country and Pakistan, but he is not prepared to accept mediation on the Kashmir conflict. Only Mr Rao can tell how does he intend to reduce tensions without a readiness to address the core issue, the Kashmir problem, which is the root cause of conflict and tensions between the two countries. For reasons of domestic political expediency, the Indian PM may want to continue harping on the same old tune of Kashmir being an integral part of India, but that will not help the country legitimise its illegal occupation of Kashmir, or for that matter force Pakistan to abandon its principled support for the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination.

The people living in occupied Kashmir have long rejected the Indian rule, first through passive resistance and, for the last few years, through an indigenous freedom movement, to suppress which the Indian security forces have launched a bloody campaign of terror and torture. The story of Indian atrocities in Kashmir, as recorded and publicised by internationally respected human rights organisations, is one that Pakistan cannot ignore because of its long standing acceptance of the UN resolution on Kashmir and its commitment to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination as recognised by the international community. There is also an increasing moral presure on Pakistan to take a stand on mass violations of human rights in the disputed territory. Though India has been trying to cover up its atrocities and inability to remain in control of the situation by blaming unsubstantiated accusation, that does not change the fact that the Kashmiris demand their basic right of self-determination and Pakistan has a moral obligation to support that right as recognised by the UN. Any mediatory efforts at diffusing Indo-Pak tensions that exclude the Kashmir problem can hardly be expected to bring peace. Maybe the Indians will listen to the US with a better tuned ear than to our pleas for reason.

Paper Supports Aslam Beg Call for Good U.S. Ties

BK0207084593 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 1 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Confrontation with America is harmful"]

[Text] Former Army Chief General (Retired) Mirza Aslam Beg's remarks on Pakistan-U.S. relations in an interview with Voice of America deserve consideration. He said that the United States is the only superpower in the world and to have a confrontation with it is a total loss. Therefore, efforts should be made to improve relations with the United States without compromising on the country's interests.

Referring to the American doubt about Pakistan's involvement in the affairs of occupied Kashmir, Gen. Beg said that the problem emerged as soon as Pakistan came into existence, and Pakistan and India fought two wars over it. Pakistan has been extending moral, political, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris, but has not provided them with arms; they are getting their weapons from others. It is not surprising that the Kashmiri freedom fighters seem to have been inspired by the Iranian revolution or the Afghan war. Whatever it is, they are fighting the war themselves.

On Pakistan's nuclear program, Mirza Aslam Beg said that [words indistinct] was started to serve as a deterrent to the Indian nuclear program. When India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, Pakistan had to achieve a nuclear capability in order to maintain parity with India and thereby discourage it from attacking us. India and Pakistan should at this stage decide whether to stop or freeze their nuclear programs. Pakistan cannot make a decision unilaterally; the two countries must do so jointly. Gen. Beg said that this is the first time that the United States has acknowledged that both Pakistan and India are nuclear powers, an important acknowledgment. We have to move forward on the basis of this confirmation and the two countries—Pakistan and India—will have to decide to stop [rok dein] their nuclear programs. Then, in the second stage, they must decide whether the nuclear program can be rolled back. They have to arrive at a decision.

Concerning the ups and downs in Pakistan-U.S. relations, Gen. Beg said that the United States needed Pakistan during the Afghan war. America turned a blind eye when the Soviets pulled out of Afghanistan. At first, Pakistan was blamed for becoming a nuclear state, then it was accused of terrorism, and then charged with involvement in narcotics trafficking. The United States used us as long it needed and moved away from us when it did not need us.

The United States is a superpower and it will incur nothing but a total loss to have a confrontation with that country. We have to adopt a policy of removing doubts and misgivings. We should coolly consider what Gen.

Beg has said about the United States and find out what can be done to restore relations to previous levels.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister on Talks With Tamil Groups Over Powers

BK0107123493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has said that official and nonofficial discussions are going on with Tamil groups to determine what additional powers could be given to provincial councils as a means of solving the northeast problem. Inaugurating the two-day roundtable organized by THE ECONOMIST with the Sri Lankan Government yesterday, the prime minister said the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was the only Tamil group not participating in the discussions and asked whether the LTTE was prepared to abide by the democratic system and its norms. He said law and order would be established in the Eastern Province before the end of the year and thereafter the LTTE will be disarmed. But to establish long-term peace, the economic and social cause that led to the rebellion would have to be tackled. The government was taking action to tackle this.

The prime minister said economic growth was a tool to remove the social and economic causes of disaffection among sections of society and the government was attempting to attain newly industrialized country status by the year 2,000.

Cabinet Approves Bill on Extradition in Commonwealth

BK0107123893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jul 93

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers has approved a draft bill providing for the transfer of convicted offenders within Commonwealth countries. The draft bill was approved on a recommendation made by the minister of justice, A.C.S. Hameed. Under this act, any citizen of the Commonwealth country convicted of an offense in Sri Lanka may be transferred to the country in question. The bill also provides for the transfer of any Sri Lankan citizen convicted of an offense in a Commonwealth country to Sri Lanka.